PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL.

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LOCAL NOTICES.

Extraordinary Bargains

In Table Linens, at Barker's.

The Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine

Is the perfection of mechanism. It uses the crystal cloth Fraser, Braider, Corder, Improved Hemmer, Quilters, Tuckers, &c., has attachments for Embroidering and making Button Holes. None are so simple; none are so durable. Salesroom, No. 27 Fifth street.

Central Park.

The Ice is in splendid skating order at this Park.

From Esquire A. B. Stevenson, Magistrate at Birmingham.

To the Public: I certify that I had been severely afflicted for years with Catarrh of the Head, Bronchitis, Heaviness in the Chest, and Impaired Hearing. In this deplorable state I was providentially induced to apply to Dr. Aborn, at No. 134 Smithfield street. In ten days after commencing his treatment I am most happy to acknowledge that I have almost *entirely recovered* from every symptom from which I had so long suffered. My hearing also is almost entirely restored to its only natural sentiveness as the fruit of his skilled and scientific treatment.

A. B. STEVENSON.

Soiled Country Blankets.

Cheap, at Barker's.

Central Park.

Splendid Skating now at this Park.

From the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.

Dr. Aborn's advertisement gives certificates of persons who have been benefited by his wonderful curative abilities. The representations of the daily press of our city, and of individuals well known to us, attest the confidence to the merit of a trial of his skill in the cure of others who are suffering in the same way.

Linen towels.

See the 12½c Linen Towels, at Barker's.

Bell's Specific Pills

Sold at the very lowest prices to the trade, by Jos. Fleming, Druggist, No. 81 Market street.

Dry Goods at Wholesale.

We are offering bargains from a full stock—many goods at less than Eastern prices. J. W. Barker & Co., 59 Market street.

Health the Highest Blessing.

A circular free to everybody. Address E. S. Aborn, M. D., 134 Smithfield street.

Shirting Muslin.

See Barker's 12½c Shirting Muslin.

Trunks, Trunks,

At John Bell's No. 35 Market street, three doors from Second street.

Leaf Tobacco.

Havana, Yara, Connecticut, New York State, at New York prices, branch of Indian Queen 12 Water street, New York. Daniel F. Dinan, 75 Water street, Pittsburgh.

The Daily Commercial

VOL. V. PITTSBURGH, FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 7, 1868. NO. 125.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

The drying room connected with Moore & Saven's tannery, on Joseph street, Chicago, was destroyed by fire Wednesday night. Loss on the building and stock $16,000. Fully insured.

Rev. Bevy H. Paddock, of Detroit, Mich., was on Monday elected by the Protestant Episcopal Bishops in Convention at St. Johns Chapel, in New York, as the Missionary Bishop of Oregon.

The exportation of silver from Montreal, Canada, will be commenced forthwith.

A fire in Scranton, Pa., on Wednesday night burned five buildings in a large block on Lackawanna avenue, occupied by the *Republican* office, Wilson's hat store, Meloin's liquor shop, Reon's produce warehouse, Morris's tailor shop, and several other shops, besides eight or ten families. Loss one hundred thousand dollars. Insured for sixty-five thousand dollars. The *Republican* saved its presses and engine.

The report of the Freedmen's Commissioner in North Carolina shows that there is considerable suffering there among the freedmen from the non-payment of wages due them, and from inability, by reason of short crops, on the part of employers to support or pay the freedmen until the next planting season opens. During December 3,430 rations were distributed to sick persons, orphans and destitute freed people. Two hundred and thirty schools are attended by twelve thousand five hundred scholars.

The Adams block, Biddeford, Maine, was burned Wednesday night. Gorden & Richeis, grocers; Blake & Co., stove dealers; Good & Co., auctioneers; Nugent's Academy; York Insurance Agency; Blaisdell's Billiard Hall, and sundry offices, were burned out. Loss, $15,000, insured.

An enthusiastic reception of General O'Neil, President of the Fenian Brotherhood, Vice President Gibbons and Colonel Walsh, took place at White's Hall, Toledo, Wednesday evening. Speeches were delivered by each. A large number of volunteers enrolled in the Irish Republican Army. General O'Neil returned to Westboro on special business, after which he will renew his visits to organizations.

The committees on insurance of both houses of the Missouri Legislature have agreed on a bill in regard to insurance companies as follows: Home mutual companies are required to have a capital of fifty thousand dollars, twenty per cent. paid up; home stock companies are to have a capital of one hundred thousand, twenty per cent. paid up; foreign companies are to have a cash capital of one hundred and fifty thousand, those amounts to be proven and secured by bond. Instead of license, both home and foreign companies are to pay city, county and State tax, based upon the receipts gross at each and every office.

The lunatic asylum attached to the Alms House of Livingston county at Genesee, N. Y., was destroyed by fire yesterday morning. Four insane persons, women, were burned to death

The strike on the Memphis, Clarksville and Louisville Railroad, temporarily adjusted, has broken out again, but will not interfere with the transportation of passengers and freight between Louisville and Memphis, as arrangements have been made by Colonel James, of the Nashville and Northwestern road, and Mr. Fink, of the Louisville and Nashville road, by which prompt connections will be made to Memphis and all points South.

An accident occurred on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad yesterday morning, near Tantolon, by which a portion of a freight train composed of fifteen cars, were destroyed. Some two hundred feet of road was torn up, and twenty-five feet of trestle broken. The conductor, Wm. Jackson; John Farrell, a brakeman, and Tom. Callahan, another brakeman, and a negro were severely wounded. No lives lost.

BY MAILS.

The Western weather prophets, some time ago, predicted from the manner in which the muskrats built their houses and from other signs that a mild winter would be experienced in Minnesota. The papers of that State, however, assert that they have not had such a cold winter since 1856. At Minneapolis, a few days since, the thermometer stood at thirty-six degrees below zero.

It begins to leak out that the objections of the Nova Scotians to "Union" were not so much against the principle as the direction in which it was to be applied. They kicked hardest of all the team harnessed in to the New Dominion of Canada and the Confederation. But here comes a bold declaration. The Halifax *Mining Gazette* says that "even loyal persons cannot dispute that as a territory of the United States, this Province would make more progress in three years than it has made under British rule during a century and a quarter.

A Philadelphia paper says: "In Lancaster county the rate of taxation for the current year is 2½ mills on $1; in York county it is seven mills; in Berks county, nearly twenty. Lancaster county has a Republican majority of about 6,000; York, a Democratic majority of about 5,000, and Berks about 7,000. Our readers can draw their own inferences, and apply them at the polls next Fall."

The last of the Southern elections for or against a constitutional convention and delegates thereto, will be held in Texas, next week, from the 10th to the 14th inclusive. The revision of the State registration lists was completed January 31st. General Hancock has ordered the publication of the revised lists, and has refused a petition to extend the time for revision, on the ground that the time provided by law has expired, and publication in advance of the election will prevent fraud.

As there are twenty-one red hats vacant in the Sacred College, the Pope has decided to create a batch of Cardinals, and, in deference to the wishes of the late Emperor Napoleon, will include in the number the Archbishop of Paris and Prince Lucien Buonaparte, prelate of his household. The whole number of creations will be fifteen.

It is stated during the five years of its existence eighty million passengers have travelled on the London Underground Railway, at an average speed of sixteen miles an hour, and without the loss of a single life, and that year by year the traffic steadily increases, twenty-three millions of passengers having been carried in 1867 against twenty-one millions in 1866.

The gold medals issued to the successful exhibitors of the Paris Exposition, are severely criticised by the French press, and pronounced shabby and utterly unworthy of the occasion. "The caskets in which they are sent," says the *Paris Siecle*, "are such mean looking affairs that no gentleman would deem them fit to encase his cigar-holder pipe."

FIRST EDITION.

12 O'CLOCK, M.

HARRISBURG.

Liberty Street Passenger Railway.

Pay of Jury Commissioners.

Privileged Question in the House.

Senators and Pittsburgh Newspapers.

Public Bills Passed and Defeated.

Special Dispatch to Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 6, 1868.

SENATE.

Petitions, Bills, &c.

Mr. Errett presented a petition for a Passenger Railroad from Pittsburgh to Temperanceville.

Also, a remonstrance from Pittsburgh against limiting the pay of Jury Commissioners.

Mr. Taylor, of Beaver, introduced a bill repealing the act of April 11th, 1866, extending the limits of the borough of Beaver.

Mr. Errett, of Allegheny, a bill regulating the fees of Sealer of Weights and Measures in Allegheny, reducing the fees for testing platform scales.

A Privileged Question.

Mr. Connell, of Philadelphia, rose to a privileged question and read an editorial in the Pittsburgh *Gazette* of yesterday, edited by F. B. Penniman, charging him with introducing a bill for the inspection of oils, for the purpose of creating an office for his own benefit, and that Governor Geary had promised to appoint him to the place. Mr. Connell denounced these charges as false and entirely without foundation. He had never thought or even dreamed of applying for the place, and had no interest in the bill, other than such as any representative should feel to protect the lives of his constituents from accidents arising from the use of adulterated oils. He had allowed Allegheny Senators ample time to examine the bill, and had amended it so as to suit the views of their constituents. Mr. Penniman was responsible for this, and he would hold him responsible.

Mr. Errett, of Allegeny, said that while the name of Mr. Penniman appeared as editor of the *Gazette* he could not possibly have written an article so untrue, and so utterly unjustifiable. It was probably the work of some subordinate. Mr. Penniman knew, as every intelligent man in the State knows, that Mr. Connell was not constitutionally eligible to any office created during his term as Senator.

Mr. Connell said he bore willing and cheerful testimony to the fact that Mr. Connell postponed the bill at his request until the off men of Allegheny could be heard from, and consented to put in every amendment they suggested, so as to make the bill acceptable to every one interested.

Mr. Lowry, of Erie, said the Pittsburgh newspapers were known to be common scolds. For seven years he had been a Senator and had voted for measures the Pittsburgh papers wanted him to vote for, but he never received anything in return but the whip across the face. They keep at Harrisburg a set of villains who write these articles, thinking they could compel honest men to take off their hats to them or pay them. He charged them with keeping in their halls a set of blackguards. They ought to call home their dogs.

Mr. Wallace, of Clearfield, had also been abused, and he was glad these Senators were nailing these falsehoods.

Mr. Fisher, of Lancaster, gave notice that he would hold these drabs, editors, reporters, and correspondents, who deliberately lied about him, to personal account.

Mr. Ridgeway, of Philadelphia, did not object to them lying, only so they didn't tell the whole truth.

Mr. Scaright, of Fayette, said editors ought to be cautious not to publish sensations but facts.

Speaker Graham, of Allegheny, coming down from the Speaker's stand, quoted a paragraph from the Harrisburg correspondence of the Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL, ridiculing his speech on the Connellsville bill. He replied that neither he, not even six Senators, knew the bill was going to pass unanimously. Messrs. Hughart and Scull did not think it would. So he made his speech in good faith. The article was intended to cast ridicule upon one who for long years had stood up and striven to pass the Connellsville restoration bill.

The Contested Election Case.

The Senate then adjourned until Monday evening, to allow the committee on the contested election case of Robison against Sturgart to visit Wilkesbarre to investigate the alleged fraudulent issue of naturalization papers.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Public Bills Passed Finally.

Relating to county rates and levies;

Providing for supplemental assessments;

Validating bounty payments to persons accredited to districts where they did not reside;

Senate resolutions relative to Secretary Stanton and General Grant;

Appropriating $172,631 to meet deficit in soldiers' orphan department;

Urging the Secretary of State of the United States to demand from England the release of persons held upon mere su picion of political offenses, and insisting upon a fixed policy in reference thereto.

Public Bills Defeated.

Repealing the act compelling railroad and other corporations to pay counsel fees of plaintiffs in certain cases.

Requiring the county from which the property is stolen to pay expenses of trial, &c., of the person so charged.

Abolishing days of grace on negotiable paper.

Abolishing special assessors of bank stock and transferring their duties to township and ward assessors.

The bill repealing the license liquor law of last session was postponed until Wednesday.

Pending discussion of the bill repealing the law preventing Sunday car running, adjourned.

The Inspection of Oil---Private Calendar Day---the Free Railroad---The Gettysburg Scheme--- Laudation of Legislators.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, February 4, 1868.

The proposition to pass an act creating the office of Oil Inspector, and taxing the oil producer and consumer ten cents per barrel, which, at the present price of crude oil at the wells, is about one twentieth of its value, is deemed by many an expensive piece of folly. If the passage of such an act and the appointment of such an officer would have the practical effect of making the use of oil for burning purposes less dangerous, few, if any, would object to the creation of such an office, although the salary attached by the bill, now on the file of the Senate, would be enormous. But every one knows that there is no danger now in using carbon oil, if people would only exercise ordinary care. Accidents are, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, the result of sheer carelessness. I care not how many oil inspectors may be appointed, accidents will take place if people fail to exercise good common sense and ordinary prudence. The truth is there is more or less danger at every step in the pathway of human life, and unless people are careful accidents will take place. It is right and proper for the Legislature to interfere in every case where such interference will lessen the risk to human life and limb. But it is rather broadly hinted that the idea of passing a bill providing for the appointment of an Oil Inspector did not originate in the desire to do a great public good or meet a great public want.

There is Private Calendar day in the House. About one hundred private bills were placed on file this morning, so that each member might have an opportunity to read and examine them before the session opened in the afternoon. Private Calendar day is a hard day for the Chief Clerk and his assistants. Each bill has to be read over twice by the Clerk, and the title of each three times before its final passage. The House was in session from ten A. M. yesterday afternoon to half past two A. M. to-day, yet was unable to get through with all the bills on the Calendar. There is a special session to-night, to consider and pass the Free or General Railroad Law.

To-morrow morning the unfinished business on the Calendar will be the first thing in order until all the bills on it are either passed, defeated or objected off.

I find that there are quite a number of sound Free Railroad men, both in the Senate and House, who believe that a general act authorizing the formation of railroad companies should have some provision requiring a sufficient amount of stock to be subscribed and paid in, to protect laborers, mechanics and contractors from being imposed on by irresponsible corporations, before any company shall be recognized as a corporation. The only question that seems difficult to solve is what amount that should be. The bill that was drawn by Mr. Jenks, of Jefferson, and which is almost a literal copy of Senator Bigham's of last year, only required two thousand dollars of stock to be subscribed, and ten per cent. of the same paid in before a company should be recognized as a corporation. Everybody here agrees that that is too small. Mr. Wilson amended that so as to make it necessary to have four thousand dollars stock subscribed and ten per cent. paid in. The Senate will likely further amend by increasing the amount to ten thousand dollars.

The Gettysburg Asylum for Invalid Soldiers —that stupendous lottery scheme that was put through last winter without any body (or very few at least) in either House knowing its character—is evidently at work this session to prevent the Legislature from repealing its charter. Benjamin W. Hitchcock, Esq., has had printed what he calls a "Defense of the Gettysburg Asylum for Invalid Soldiers," and laid on the desks of the members. It is a poor miserable apology, a shallow attempt to ward off the attacks of General Van Wick, member of Congress from New York. The originators who concocted the scheme for the purpose of making money under the false pretense of benefiting the brave veteran soldiers of the war are determined not to give up their unholy purpose, even though their counterfeit patriotism and unadulterated hypocracy, stand out as clear as the noonday sun.

There is quite a lengthy editorial in this evening's *Telegraph*, censuring the Press of Western Pennsylvania—and especially the Pittsburgh papers—for not giving due credit to their Senators and Members this session for their successful legislation towards the Connellsville Railroad, and for their untiring efforts to secure the passage of a Free Railroad law. I can hardly understand what prompted this free lecture to the Western papers. The Allegheny delegation needs no newspaper bolstering up. They would be in a fearful condition if they did. They, as well as the other Western Senators and Members, attend to the interests of their constituents from a sense of duty. They have stood as a unit in favor of the Connellsville Railroad, and they are united in favor of a Free, or General Railroad law, such as the intelligent people demand. The papers of Pittsburgh, as well as the people of Allegheny county, are disposed to appreciate the labors of competent and faithful Representatives. They know that those now representing them here in both branches of the Legislature, in all their past course, have evinced that they are devoted to the interests of their constituents. Those representing the other counties in the Western part of the State have been equally true and equally zealous and faithful in the great leading measures of the people of the Western part of the State. The writer of the editorial to which I have alluded, in two places refers to Mr. Wilson and Mr. Ford as being both on the Railroad Committee. He says: "In the House it was Wilson, Chairman of the Railroad Committee, and Ford, of the same Committee, both members from Allegheny, to whom we are mainly indebted for carrying this bill through the Committee." Did the writer not know that Mr. Miller, another very worthy and efficient member from Allegheny county, is also a member of the Railroad Committee, and just as true a friend of the Connellsville Road as any one else? Did he not know that Col. Duncan, of Venango; Col. Welles, of Somerset; McJunken, of Butler—all good and reliable Republicans—were also members of that Committee, and firm friends of the Connellsville Road? And that W. P. Jenks, as decent and respectable a man, and decidedly the ablest Democratic member on the floor of the House, is also on that Committee and labors in the interest of the Connellsville road? Mr. Wilson is known at home, as well as here, as an untiring and influential friend of the Connellsville enterprise, and needs no newspaper puff to place him right before the people of Allegheny county, as well as other sections of the State. His past record has not a blur over it; and Mr. Ford, although a new member, has made a fair beginning, and from his knowledge of his ability and his zeal to make his mark as a representative. So also in regard to the two Senators representing Allegheny county. Everybody knows that they were active, zealous and unwearied in season and out of season," to secure the passage of the Connellsville bill and to secure the passage of a general and practical railroad law. All the Allegheny delegation have acted well their parts. This is fair, and deserves the praise of their constituents; and yet there are others in the West, as well as the North and East, that are every whit as worthy, and did just as much to secure the passage of the Connellsville bill as the Allegheny members, and deserve just as hearty thanks from their constituents; and, therefore, it is hard to see the necessity of selecting one or two for special praise, and saying that *they* and *they alone* accomplished the work. The Republican party as an organization, having control of both houses, and having the Executive too, are entitled to the credit of the satisfactory legislation that has been had. The Governor has shown himself to be made of the right kind of metal, and to be true as steel to the interests of the people. He, too, deserves credit for the probable passage of a Free Railroad law.

West and North-west of Pittsburgh there are five Senators and fifteen members, all of whom have proven themselves true as well as active in support of both the Connellsville road and the Free Railroad law, and the Senators and members from the adjoining Eastern counties have been just as devoted and faithful as have been the Allegheny county delegation. Therefore there is no necessity for stating what is not true in fact, that the Allegheny delegation passed the Connellsville bill, "triumph and by a unanimous vote through the House."

JUNIUS.

Transcribing Public Records.

The following bill has been reported in the Senate from the Judiciary Local Commite, with a negative recommendation:

An act relating to the making and transcribing of indexes to the records of the several public offices in the county of Allegheny.

WHEREAS, It appears that from inaccuracies, omissions and other causes many of the indexes to the complete indexes to the records in some of the public offices in the county of Allegheny, and in the case of the said offices, the indexes by reason of long and constant use have become obliterated and illegible; therefore,

Be it enacted, That it shall, and may be lawful for the Court of Common Pleas of the said County of Allegheny, whenever it shall be made to appear to the said Court to be necessary, to make an order requiring the indexes, direct and inverse, to be made, and the old indexes to be transcribed, when necessity of the case may require, in the office for the recording of deeds, the office of the register of wills, the office of the Prothonotary of the District Court and Court of Common Pleas, the office of the clerk of the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace, and the office of the clerk of the Orphan's Court of said county, and the said county shall be charged with the expenses of preparing and printing the same.

SEC. 2. That the said Recorder of Deeds, Register of Wills, Prothonotary of the District Court and Court of Common Pleas, Clerk of the Court of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, and Clerk of the Orphans' Court shall each receive six cents for each transcription for his services in making or transcribing the indexes in his proper office as the said Court may direct, and twenty-five cents for each folio sheet; and they shall be responsible for the correctness and accuracy of the work in making or transcribing such indexes; *provided*, that the said Court may, if it be deemed necessary, appoint a commissioner or commissioners, not exceeding one for three disinterested and discreet persons, to examine and report the amount to be allowed to the said officers, and the amount of compensation to be allowed to the said officers, respectively, in making or transcribing the said indexes.

WOOSTER, OHIO.

Another Kerosene Suicide---Found Dead on the Railroad.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WOOSTER, O., February 6, 1868.

Last evening about six o'clock, a young lady in this place named Merdie D. Miller, sixteen years of age, while lighting a fire, poured kerosene oil on the fire to hurry it, when the blaze caught the oil in the can, exploding it and burning her so severely as to cause death at 2 P. M. to-day.

An old man named Wagoner was found dead this evening, lying by the railroad track, three miles east of this place. He was considerably bruised and cut up, and is supposed to have been killed by a train. He is said to be from Mansfield.

SAN FRANCISCO.

Central Pacific Railroad---Cold Weather on the Northern Coast---Affairs in Alaska.

SAN FRANCISCO, February 6.—The Central Pacific Railroad Company has made a contract for grading the road from Sacramento to Stockton, within ninety days, and thence to Oakland in six months. The work will commence immediately.

Late Northern coast advices state that the weather is extremely cold. Bayne's Sound is entirely frozen over with ice six inches thick. News from Cariboo mines encouraging.

Alaska advices are to January 24th. The officers and soldiers of the garrison and citizens are in good health. The Indians are quiet. The weather was delightful. The troops had been paid, and money was plenty.

The San Joaquin Valley Railroad Company, to build a road from Stockton to Keen river, was incorporated, with a capital of fifteen million. The officers of the Central Pacific Company are Trustees.

The salaries of officers and employees of the Pacific Mail Company have been reduced twenty per cent., to continue during opposition. The reduction was voluntary on the part of those employed by the Company. The retrenchments are to be made in expenses, and all things placed on a footing to meet the impending struggle.

The pastors of the Presbyterian churches in Indianapolis, have called a State Convention in that city March 13th, next, for Christian fellowship and prayer.

XLth CONGRESS.

The New Funding Bill.

Forty Year 5 per Cent. Bonds.

Liquidation of the National Debt.

Foreign Loan Provision Stricken Out.

New National Banking Bill.

Rights of American Citizens Abroad.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 6, 1868.

In the Senate to-day, Mr. Sherman reported the funding bill, which the Finance Committee have been considering for some time past. It provides for the issue of registered and coupon bonds of the United States, payable principal and interest in coin, and bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and bearing date so as to require the payment of an equal amount of the interest quarterly, such bonds to be payable forty years from date, and redeemable in coin at the pleasure of the Government after ten years from date, and to be issued to an amount sufficient to liquidate outstanding obligations of the United States, other than the existing 5 per cent. bonds, and to be exchanged for such obligations and to be disposed of in such manner and on such terms, not less than par, as the Secretary of the Treasury may deem most conducive to the interest of the Government: and the said bonds shall be exclusively used for the redemption or in exchange for the existing securities of the United States. The bonds are to be exempted from taxation in any form. It appropriates out of the proceeds of duties on imported goods annually an amount equal to one per cent. on the bonds issued under this act, which sums shall be received and annually applied to the purchase and payment of the national debt. It legalizes all contracts made specially payable in coin, and strikes out the provision relative to a foreign loan.

Mr. Sherman gave notice that he should call the bill up immediately after the conclusion of the debate on reconstruction.

Mr. Henderson, from the Finance Committee reported the bill previously introduced by himself, repealing the limitation of the National Banking bill in regard to the amount of the circulation of national banks, and allowing any banking association, depositing with the Treasurer the necessary securities, to issue national bank currency not exceeding eighty per cent. of the par value of the bonds so deposited; provided that whenever the amount of United States and circulating notes of national banks combined shall be in excess of seven hundred million dollars, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and required to retire and cancel as rapidly as practicable United States notes to the extent of such excess until the whole amount of United States notes outstanding shall be reduced to two hundred and fifty million dollars.

A bill was passed to provide for the representation of the United States in the maritime exhibition to be held at Havre next summer.

Mr. Drake made a speech on reconstruction, and Mr. Harlan got the floor for to-morrow on the same subject. No executive session was held.

The House resumed the consideration in the morning hour of the bill in relation to the rights of American citizens abroad. Mr. Chanler, of New York, addressed the House against this particular bill. No vote was reached.

The House took up and passed the West Point appropriation bill, and spent the rest of the day on the legislative appropriation bill.

The Morgan and Delano contested election case is still before the Committee on Elections, but will probably be disposed of this week and reported to the House on Monday. Mr. Delano closes his argument to-morrow. The Missouri contested case in the Ninth District, of Switzler against Anderson, comes before the committee for argument on the 13th inst.

To Western Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 6, 1868.

SENATE.

The CHAIR laid before the Senate a memorial of the Arkansas Convention, setting forth that as the State officers are enemies of the Government, who persecute loyalists, the Convention ask to be authorized to appoint new officers. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Petitions were all presented for the removal of the duty on raw jute, and for the reduction of the heavy annuities. The latter was from citizens of Green Bay, asking that a portion of the money thus saved be applied to the improvement of the harbor at the mouth of Green River. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. HENDERSON reported favorably from Committee their respective bills, and gave notice that they would call them up soon as the reconstruction debate was closed.

The Committee on Finance reported a substitute for Mr. Sherman's bill, introduced December 17th, providing as follows: The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to issue bonds bearing interest at five per cent., principal and interest payable in coin, and due in forty years, but redeemable in ten years to an amount sufficient to cover all outstanding obligations of the United States other than five per cent. bonds, and to be exchanged for obligations or disposed of otherwise at not less than par, and said bonds or proceeds thereof to be exclusively used for the redemption or in exchange of existing securities of the United States; the bonds to be issued shall be known as the consolidated debt of the United States, and shall be exempt from all taxation by State or local authorities, and the same with interest thereon and income therefrom shall be exempt from payment of all taxes or duties of the United States other than such income tax as may be assessed on other income; and in consideration of the reduction of the rate of imposed duties equal to one per cent. on bonds issued, which shall be applied to the purchase or payment of the national debt in addition to the sums necessary to pay their interest and for the maturing bonded debt of the United States, there is appropriated out of the Treasury a sum which, including said interest and maturing debt and the one per cent. as aforesaid, shall amount to one hundred and thirty five millions annually, which sum shall be applied to the reduction of the debt by the purchase of the bond, contemplated by act of February 25th, 1862. Five-twenty bonds shall, after the expiration of five years from their date, at the option of the holders, be exchanged for five new bonds, and such as are not so exchangeable shall be presented for exchange before the first of November next, and not thereafter, and the residue not later than six months after the expiration of five years from date, for lawful money of the United States, and the five new bonds are to be exchangeable for each other when presented to the treasurers, unless the amount of United States notes outstanding shall be equal to $400,000,000, or unless the United States shall have resumed payment in coin for their notes.

The last section provides that any contracts hereafter specially made in coin shall be legal and valid, and may be enforced according to the terms of said contracts.

Mr. TRUMBULL presented a petition of colored citizens of North Carolina, setting forth their miserable condition, and asking to be sent to Liberia. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

The joint resolution relative to lands granted railroad companies in Michigan and Wisconsin was taken up and passed with the pending amendment restricting its provisions to the chartered and projected lines from Fon du Lac, Wis., to West Kanawa, Mich., and Marquette, Mich., to certain points in the same State.

Mr. DAVIS offered a resolution asking, in addition to the information heretofore asked from the Secretary of War, what amounts have been paid to brokers or agents by the War Department for vessels chartered or employed by the Department, since the 4th of March, 1861, with the name and dates.

Mr. HOWARD objecting the resolution was laid over.

On motion of Mr. HOWARD, the bill to grant aid to the Central Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad was taken up.

Mr. SHERMAN opposed extending subsidies further than under the existing laws. He had no doubt but that the eastern division of that road would eventually extend to New Mexico when the finances of the country were in a better condition.

After further debate by Messrs. MORRILL and HOWARD, the bill went over at the expiration of the morning hour.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN offered a resolution to instruct the Committee on Naval Affairs to report in regard to providing suitable localities to replace that used for Government magazines near New York and Jersey City.

Mr. DRAKE spoke in support of the Supplemental Reconstruction Bill.

Mr. HENDERSON'S bill repeals the limitations of the national banking law in regard to the amount of circulation of national banks. It allows any banking association depositing with the Treasurer of the United States the necessary securities to issue national bank currency, not exceeding eighty per cent. of the par value of bonds so deposited, provided, whenever the amount of United States notes and circulating notes of national banks combined shall be in excess of seven hundred million dollars, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to withdraw and cancel as rapidly as possible the United States notes to the extent of such excess, until the whole amount of United States notes outstanding shall be reduced to two hundred and fifty millions.

Mr. DRAKE, after alluding to the associations connected with the name of American citizen, a name, he said, honored and reverenced everywhere but where it should be most, in the Republic itself, referred to the former friends of the Republican party, who had assumed the garb of traitors and joined those North and South with whom that party was now struggling, and said his purpose was to contest every inch of ground with the foes of his country's prosperity and glory, whether open-faced rebels or half-mast Democrats, one and the same in spirit. His voice was still for war against them. There could be no peace between them and patriots. The Democracy had crept back from its hole, warmed into life by one who had betrayed his trust, and now opposed every act of the upholders of the Union as unconstitutional, and supported everything calculated to sap the base of nationality. The Northern Democrats were only another variety of rebels. When the day of their triumph came, if come it did, would they not pluck the the national goose together? It seemed to be denied, nearly two years after the roar of the battle had died away, that this is a nation. The only safe haven for the country was in nationality. For ninety-four years the people have been one people, and not thirty-seven different peoples. State sovereignty had been the cause of the revolution of 1798, in Virginia, and 1799, in Kentucky. He had hoped that the dogma had been riven in twain, like old Virginia herself.

There were various conflicting opinions about what the Union was. It was time to dispel some of the heresies on the subject. Never before had thirteen communities of three millions people, each, diverse interests, institutions and governments, flown together in such manner. Never before had a nation been born in a day. He saw the hand of God in it, in promoting the glory of His name. He saw in it the fruition of liberty throughout the world, people overthrowing crowns and bringing radiance into the habitations of cruelty of the whole earth. The nation had never assailed the constitutional rights of a State, but a party had existed to increase the interests of State rights. That dogma had gone with the war forever. He likened the Democrat to the man Christian seen in the allegory of Bunyan, with a muck rake in his hand, raking up the dust and the straw of State Rights, and refusing the crown of nationality which hovered over his head. The people of the thirteen original States, in calling the nation the United States, told the whole story. Nationality meant then the sovereignty over everything which, in the judgment of the nation, was of national importance. If sovereignty was not there, it was nowhere. Even in that semblance of nationality, the first confederation, this principle was recognized, but with such restrictions that it could not exist for more than ten years. The present Constitution was made for no other reason than that nationality had been so smothered under the restrictions that it could not live. That Constitution confirmed full power to protect the nation against encroachments by States. The present attacks of the advocates of State rights should be met in the spirit of comprehensive and unyielding nationality. Any new insurrection could arise from an adherence to the doctrine of nationality, whatever came from the doctrine of State rights.

Mr. DRAKE went on to argue that the government of the Southern States, the only State Governments the nation had ever recognized, having been overthrown by the rebels, and others formed by the aid of the rebellion had no legality; that the people of those States were without any power to make laws, to follow the fortunes of the rebellion, and that those who had engaged in rebellion had no right to force others to replace them. No Senator would claim that they had the right. The only question of political power was before the country. The controversy was to be laid at the doors of the Democratic party. Knowing these States were democratic when they went into the war, and would be Democratic now if allowed to reconstruct themselves, that party desired to gain six or seven electoral votes for President and Vice President, which would be a pretty fair start for the Democracy. Never in history was political action based on a lower scale of man's inhumanity to man.

Mr. DRAKE quoted from the speech of Mr. Davis that the South would have been reconstructed two years ago if they had been left alone. Let alone to re-insnare the negro and set up a white man's government. Seven years ago Adam was tempted in the same phrase, and the Devil has used it, as might be seen from the Scriptures, many years before. He quoted the saying of the man having an unclean spirit —"What have we to do with Thee, Jesus of Nazareth?" Nothing, the spirit replied, commencing "And thou, Capernaum which art exalted," &c., and said it might be asked if there was a Capernaum in America. The Devil, Jeff Davis and the Senator from Kentucky proved that Solomon lived two thousand years ago was a wise man. [Laughter.]

He went on to say that the clause in the Constitution empowering Congress to guarantee a republican form of government having been fully agreed upon in the debates of the convention, and having been published in a recent letter to Senator Johnson, he would not now discuss it, and proceeded to argue that full power was granted to Congress by the clause of the National Legislature, and it was folly and wicked nonsense to deny to Congress the power to make all laws and use all means necessary to that end. Should the power in these States be entrusted to the rebels, with torches which are not blistered, or that ought to be blistered from the violation of oaths? The seceding States, once members of the Union, had given the nation by their act and deed the right of a voice in their reconstruction. Should that power be put in the hands of rebels? Why not? said the Democracy. And for that, he said with great emphasis, I say down with the Democracy. The Democracy are again rallying under the banner of State rights. He adjured them to grapple with the rebellion and disloyalty, North and South.

Mr. HARLAN obtained the floor at the conclusion of Mr. DRAKE'S remarks, which yielded also Mr. HOWARD to again call up the bill in regard to the Central Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad. The motion was carried 16 to 13, but Mr. FESSENDEN said Mr. JOHNSON, who had the floor on Monday, was not present, and moved an executive session, which was subsequently withdrawn.

Mr. SUMNER moved to postpone the bill and the joint resolution authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to send one or more naval officers to Havre Maritime Exhibition to represent the United States, which was carried.

Mr. CONNESS'S amendment, providing agents for the United States, was adopted.

After a lengthy debate the resolution was adopted by a vote of 21 against 19.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the bill concerning the rights of American citizens in foreign countries.

Mr. CHANDLER addressed the House in criticism of the bill, likeing it to Niagara. The title of the bill, he said, was the roar, and the bill itself was the fall, and great was the fall thereof.

Messrs. BOYER and WOOD also made remarks. The bill then went over to the morning hour of Tuesday.

Mr. SCHENCK, from the Appropriation Committee, reported the army appropriation bill, amounting to thirty-three millions. It contains provision for the gradual reduction of the army until the military force is reduced to fifty regiments of infantry, seven regiments of cavalry, and five regiments of artillery. No new commission shall be issued to any regiment except to West Point cadets as Second Lieutenants. The Secretary of War is directed to consolidate regiments as rapidly as the requirements of the public service and the reduction in the number of officers will permit, until the foregoing minimum is reached. This provision is not to be construed to deprive any officer in commission of promotion that may be open to him by the occurrence of vacancies among his superiors in rank. Such promotions, however, are to be always made so as to facilitate and not obstruct the consolidation of regiments.

Mr. BLAINE explained briefly the items of the bill, recapitulating as follows: For Navy, $18,000 000, compared with an average annual cost of over thirteen millions in gold under Buchanan's administration; Executive, Legislative and Judicial expenses, $7,000,000; Post-office Department, $4,000,000; Consular and Diplomatic expenses, $1,250,000; Ordnance Department, $7,000,000; West Point Academy, $300,000; Miscellaneous expenses, $14,000,000, making an aggregate of $90,000,000, compared with $70,000,000 in gold for like expenses of the Government during the first year of Buchanan's administration. To these ordinary expenses were to be added $30,000,000 for pensions, $25,000,000 for bounties, and $30,000,000 for interest on public debt, making an aggregate of expenditures of $275,000,000 for the year.

This amount, Mr. BLAINE stated, would be greatly reduced in future years, when bounties would not have to be paid, when the army list would be reduced, and pensions curtailed, as they would rapidly from various causes.

Mr. ROSS inquired why the expenses of the Government had not been reduced three years ago, and why economy had been postponed until the elections were near at hand, and the dominant party were seeking a new lease of power.

Mr. BLAINE said he did not propose to enter upon a discussion; now that discussion could be had in Committee of the Whole.

The bill was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union and made the special order for the 13th.

The House went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. WILSON, of Iowa, in the Chair, and resumed consideration of the Military Academy appropriation bill.

Mr. ELDRIDGE modified his amendment, pending at adjournment yesterday, by making it read, "and providing further that no part of the money appropriated by this act shall be paid or applied to the pay or subsistence of any but white cadets." The amendment was rejected, 38 to 70.

Some other amendments were offered and rejected, and the bill was laid aside to be reported to the House.

The Committee then took up as the special order the bill making appropriations for Legislative, Executive and Judicial expenses of the Government. Having been read at length, the Committee rose and the House proceeded to the consideration of the West Point bill.

Mr. WASHBURNE, of Illinois, who had reported the bill, made an argument against the amendment adopted by the Committee yesterday, on motion of Mr. SCHENCK, striking out the item of $4,000 for expenses of Board visitors to the

☞ THE WEEKLY COMMERCIAL is the LARGEST and BEST PAPER in Pennsylvania. Price, per annum, in Clubs of twenty copies only ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS; single copies, TWO DOLLARS. As a PAPER FOR THE FAMILY it is UNEQUALLED. No paper gives such AMPLE MARKET REPORTS. It contains ALL THE NEWS OF THE WEEK, CAREFULLY PREPARED. NOW IS THE TIME TO SUBSCRIBE. Address THE COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh.

The Daily Commercial

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1868.

THE COMMERCIAL *is the largest daily paper in the State, and gives daily one-fourth more reading than any other paper in Pittsburgh. It is the only Pittsburgh paper that uses the telegraph liberally gives full market reports, and all the news of the day.*

As proof of the estimate placed on the market reports of the COMMERCIAL, *we will state that they are regularly copied by the New York Economist, Shipping List, Iron Age, and other papers of this character in that and other cities, and that leading English commercial papers and circulars regularly reprint them with credit. There is within five hundred miles, hardly an Iron Factory, Oil Refinery, or leading manufactory of any kind that is not a subscriber to the* COMMERCIAL, *principally, because its reports are the only full and reliable given of the Pittsburgh markets.*

CONSIDERING that it costs something like three thousand dollars a day to run the Legislature, we beg leave to suggest that if either of the two branches can find no better employment than the lecturing of the conductors of newspapers and their correspondents, an immediate adjournment should take place. For our part, we have no particular objection, but they who foot the bills may. In our judgment, in reference to the breeze in the Senate yesterday, the members of that body have occasion to deprecate nothing so much as the manners of some of their members.

WHILE the country has been cultivating its patience and hoping for a thorough tax reform at the hands of Congress, the Committee of Ways and Means have been hard at work perfecting the new bill, which will go far to reward the people for their patience and realize their wishes. The committee have had no easy task, but we have good reasons to believe that it will be done well. It is understood that nearly all the manufactured articles enumerated in the ninety-fourth section of the present law will be exempted from duty, and the burthen of taxation almost wholly placed on luxuries. The present complicated provisions as to non-taxables will be avoided altogether by specially exempting all articles not named. The report of the committee will be made before many days have elapsed.

WHATEVER we might think of the constitutional amendments in the Legislature proposed by Mr. HICKMAN—and we know we should cordially support the one prescribing the test of intelligence as to suffrage—we are disposed to think that the entire question of amending our State Constitution had better be postponed until the time when, according to a provision in the instrument itself, the work will have to be done—two years hence. The Presidential year is not a favorable time for deliberation of the kind which should be given to constitution amending; and while we do not at all question the patriotism of the distinguished mover of the propositions, we cannot help thinking he has erred in bringing forward so important a question as that of suffrage at this time. We suggest the postponement, not because we esteem the subject lightly, but for the very opposite reason. When the work of revising our fundamental law is done, it should be under as few embarrassments as possible; and two years hence, it is believed, will be a more favorable time than the present; when, too, it is greatly to be hoped, the State will have the benefit of Mr. HICKMAN'S great abilities.

THE SOLDIER'S STYLE.

There was a time when very distinguished soldiers could be ignorant of both reading and writing without disparagement to either their military skill, or personal dignity. Both these now indispensable accomplishments ranked among those arts of peace which the soldier might properly disdain as needful to the priest and the scrivener, but neither useful nor ornamental to the members of the nobler profession to which he belonged. This estimate of literary education was, however, the concomitant and evidence of a rude form of a low civilization. Both in the high civilizations of the old world and in the high civilization of modern times, a degree of literary culture has been generally deemed almost essential to the full accomplishment of the military man in command. While some eminent Generals have been known to disdain books and the profit and enjoyment derivable from them, several of the most illustrious of the class have been scholarly in their tastes and desirous to make their scholarly tastes known. The greatest soldier of the world, JULIUS CÆSAR, was fond of books and delighted in literary composition. His famous work on grammar was the fruit of one of his journeys from Rome into Gaul. In this book—now not extant—there was a precept often since quoted which shows the interest he felt in his own language, and the importance he attached to its study. The *Commentaries* which contain the history of some of his wars have been admired wherever known, and continue to afford lessons in writing and in the military art even at the present day. In more recent times NAPOLEON first appeared before the public as the writer of a book, and in the height of his fame as a ruler and conqueror, he is known to have been nearly as proud of his mastery over the resources of the French language as of his sway in Europe. A celebrated English historian, who had read all his proclamations and all his speeches in the meetings of the Commission on the Code, expresses the opinion that if NAPOLEON had not been the greatest soldier, he might, and probably would have been, the greatest author of his age.

WELLINGTON also is justly admired for his writings. It has been affirmed by one who had read all his dispatches, that they do not contain an obscure sentence. This quality of perspicuity is also the most obvious characteristic of the letters, journals and State papers of WASHINGTON. In connection with these names and with this subject we cannot but think of General GRANT. Any one who should devote a week or two to the perusal of the extant writings of the celebrated men just named, ought to be able to describe, or characterize by precise epithets the style of written speech appropriate to the soldier. Precision, or the avoidance of unnecessary words—always an excellence—is especially appropriate to the style of the man who writes because he has something important to say. DANIEL WEBSTER remarked that "he had been striving all his life to discard words." "Remember that words are the counters of wise men and the money of fools" was the injunction of a great thinker. Hence in GRANT'S writing for example the absence of those roundabout phrases and elaborate circumlocutions which, though agreeable to the ear of the hearer and to the eye of the reader, impart nothing to the sense to be expressed. He evidently writes without giving a thought to his style. Like CONRER, he uses the first word that presents itself as the equivalent of his idea. Simplicity, directness and vigor, and consequent clearness of expression, are features of every dispatch and letter of his we have ever read. No doubt some of these compositions were produced in great haste, and occasional sentences may be found in them which might be improved by revision The fact that such sentences are met with in his writing is evidence of the General's indifference to the small prettiness of rhetoric.

His letters, published in our yesterday's paper, having been written without consultation with any one, as we learn from Washington, were given to the public in the form in which they were first produced, of course excepting the errors of the telegraph. If General GRANT cared to appear as the master of a style of peculiar elegance and finish, how easy, with the resources at his command, to have his sentences elaborated to the highest finish. But we do not believe that in the great essentials of perspicuity, manly downrightness and energy, it would be possible to improve them.

THE WISDOM OF PROVERBS AND GENERAL GRANT.

While we yield to none in our respect for our General's soldiership, it is not the one of his attributes of which we think with most pleasure. There is a homely phrase still known to all, but not so current and so often in the mouths of men as formerly—which frequently occurs to us in connection with his name. *Mother Wit* is the phrase we mean. No doubt this quality was of vast use to GRANT in his military career, but his possession and employment of it have been most frequently and effectively illustrated in his course as a civilian. To define the words, or attempt to tell the least intelligent of our readers what they mean, would be as supererogatory a bit of effort as anything one can imagine. To explain candy to a schoolboy, or peat to an Irishman, would hardly be more superfluous. But there is an illustration of the subject which may not be quite so commonplace as a mere definition. General GRANT, more frequently than any other eminent man of the present, seems to us to exemplify the wisdom of familiar proverbs, and we cannot help suspecting that those popular sayings must be favorites with him, though we are unable to produce direct and positive evidence of his taste. ALEXANDER THE GREAT, as every schoolboy knows, had HOMER'S poems daily in his hands, and appropriated for their preservation a very costly casket, beautified with gold and jewels. NAPOLEON'S favorite books were CÆSAR'S Commentaries and OSSIAN. Of GRANT'S bookish tastes we have heard nothing, but suspect that he finds both guidance and entertainment in the meditation of those common sayings which Lord JOHN RUSSELL long ago described as "the wit of one and the wisdom of many," and which we call proverbs. We are aware that this will be regarded by some as an offensive charge against the General, as a grave disparagement of his character. Lord CHESTERFIELD says, "a man of fashion never quotes a proverb," and his lordship's dictum carries with it a tremendous ponderosity, whether of censure or of praise. Even now HOMER'S reputation has hardly recovered from the crushing effect of that nobleman's remark, that "the Iliad is sometimes very vulgar in its details." But let us remind the reader that GRANT has not been charged with quoting proverbs, but simply with admiring them and drawing from them rules to regulate his conduct. Therefore, no palpable violation or infringement of CHESTERFIELD'S ethics, or the code of fashion canfairly be said to lie at his door. To be sure, the fact once admitted that he loves the forbidden thing in secret, may suggest damaging suspicion in regard to the radical soundness of his refinement. But about that we confess ourselves not seriously troubled. Wisdom is better even than fashion, and in our satisfaction that our great soldier, and future President, admires and endeavors to make his own by practice the prudence of ages embodied in proverbs, we can easily forgive the vulgarity in taste.

The suspicion that GRANT possesses this taste had often crossed our mind before, but a sentence in his letter to the President—dated January 25, 1868, and printed in yesterday's COMMERCIAL—first gave us confidence in our theory, and changed our suspicion into a degree of certainty. "What is written admits of no misunderstanding," writes the General. This sentence is at once a proverb and not a proverb. The writer evidently has in mind the venerable proverb of both Greek and Roman antiquity—"The written letter remains." Perhaps, to avoid the criticism of Lord CHESTERFIELD he does not quote the old saying in so many words, but adopting its wisdom, he gives it a form to suit his purpose, and does this with a skill which implies long familiarity with gnomic literature and a full appreciation of its character.

Then again in reading the whole correspondence, of which this letter of GRANT'S is a portion, who can fail to be reminded of the Chinese proverb, which seems also to have been present to the General's mind, "One has never so much need of his wit as when he has to do with an unwise man." An old English proverb is likewise suggested, "Burn not thy fingers to snuff another man's candle."

But to us the proverb which most frequently occurs in watching the course of our great General, is one of Eastern origin. The precept it implies is daily violated or disregarded to the injury of many, and doubtless will continue to be contemned, or forgotten to the ruin of multitudes so long as ST. JAMES'S account of the tongue remains true, "The tongue is a little member and boasteth great things. And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity; so is the tongue among our members, that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature." Among our rulers and legislators what copiousness of words! what fluency of speech! what eloquence! and where eloquence is not, what overpowering loquacity! A visitor from another planet, or from another hemisphere, who should hear a few of the discourses which it is our privilege to read, and who happened to be ignorant of the possibility of being wise in speech and foolish, or feeble, or undecided in action, might well wonder at the imbroglio in which our national affairs are involved. The fact is that we are a nation living the experience and exemplifying the facts which, in an older civilization, and in view of a longer history, suggested the Persian proverb, "speech is silvern, silence is golden." The saying is founded on a grand psychological truth, that one of the first requisites to wise, energetic and well directed action is the silence which springs from the conscious difficulty of speaking the right word under complicated circumstances, which recognizes the emptiness of mere words, and which has the courage to disdain the misinterpretation or misconstruction of babblers.

A NEW YORK correspondent of a London paper writes about Dickens as follows: "The Dickens fever shows signs of abatement. * * His agent found it difficult to sell all the tickets for the fourth course in New York. * * People have gratified their curiosity, and now they have time to discover that Mr. Dickens is not, after all, the best reader and actor in the world." This sounds very much like the truth, and probably is the real explanation why Dickens's Western tour was abandoned.

A LONDON paper, referring to the Abyssinian expedition, says: "What we have actually found in Abyssinia is a country which, compared with some of the regions of Northeastern and Northwestern India, is perfectly practicable, a population whose services as well as good will can be bought for money, and an enemy in such straits that it is a chance if we ever meet with him at all." The expedition will, it is thought, accomplish its purpose without any bloodshed.

THAT sterling Republican paper, the *Greensburg Herald*, comes to us this week enlarged and in new type—presenting a handsome and prosperous appearance. Messrs. D. W. Shryock and Son, editors and publishers, deserve the unanimous support of the Republicans of Westmoreland county, for presenting them with such an excellent paper.

THE latest Democratic Presidential combination is, Senator Hendricks, of Indiana, for President, and Charles Francis Adams, Minister to England, for Vice. This reminds one of the cart before the horse, but it's of no consequence which way they place them, it is all the same.

A letter in the Paris papers states, on the authority of a colonel of the French army, that instead of there being any exaggeration in the account of the famine in Algeria, things are even worse than stated. More than two hundred thousand persons are reported, have already perished. A vast amount of destitution is also reported in the east or Persia.

Ice cutters are operating on the Chicago river, which is filled with indescribable filth. They say that it is for the brewers and butchers but it is found that large quantities are going to restaurants and the regular depositories of the ice companies, whence is taken the supply for private families.

A New Method of Preventing Railway Accidents.

The New York Legislature has raised a committee to inquire into the causes of railway accidents, and recommend a remedy. A similar step might be taken in our own Assembly, but we agree with the New York *Sun*, that all legislation merely prescribing the use of certain rails, cars, engines, etc., will prove of but little effect. The paper named indorses the view which we advanced some weeks since, in speaking of the Angola disaster, that a great majority of the railway accidents are caused by want of due care in the working of trains, and inattention to the condition of the road bed, tracks, bridges, etc. Fast running, careless officers, sleepy watchmen, drowsy switch-tenders, shaky bridges and trestle works, and dilapidated road beds, cause a majority of the accidents which result in loss of limb and life. The *Sun* agrees that in order to prevent these accidents, railway companies must be made to feel the effects directly in their treasuries, and in order to accomplish this object the following rather novel legislation is proposed:

For every engine, tender or car that shall run off the track, impose a fine, say of $500. For every wheel or rail that shall break, $500. For every misplacing of a switch, $500. For every car that shall upset, $1,000. For every collision of trains $2,000. For every breaking through of a bridge $2,000. For every person killed $5,000. For every broken limb or bone, $1,000. For every other injury to the person, not hazarding life or limb, from $250 to $500. And so on for other accidents and injuries; the imposition of these fines not to prevent suits, by individuals for injuries to their persons or property, nor criminal prosecutions in appropriate cases, but to be regarded as penalties inflicted on behalf of the public.

It is argued that, under the operations of a law such as indicated above, the railway companies would not be long in finding out the causes of accidents, and applying the necessary remedies to prevent them. Such a measure would doubtless be regarded as severe; but desperate cases require severe remedies, and any proposition tending to protect the traveling public is worthy of consideration.

High Art.

Prof. Heizel, of the School of Design, has just taken from his easel one of his last summer's studies from nature—a view of the upper Conemaugh on the Blue Ridge. It is a grand work of art, and has been handled with great power of expression in the details of drawing and color.

The scenery on the water courses of the Alleghany Mountains is noted for its wild and graphic beauty. Prof. H. has, by frequent visits to these mountain ranges for the purpose of sketching and study, been able to transfer much of the spirit and grandeur of these scenes to his canvass. His tree drawing is wonderful, and his undergrowth is rendered with great beauty and truthfulness. Every part of his picture is painted with great care, and yet without any sacrifice of depth or breadth, to mere detail.

The work to which reference is had in this notice is indeed a study. It cannot be taken in at a glance, for its beauty is not on the surface, but pervades the whole picture, growing upon the eye and heart, as we admire the beautiful play of light and shade on the forest trees, the bold, rugged rocks of the foreground, the purity and tone of the water, the luminous quality of the sky, producing an effect that few artists in any country has excelled. This large and beautiful work of art will remain for a few days on exhibition at the studio of the artist, where we advise all lovers of high art to call and see it.

A Thorn in the Side of England.

The Sultan of Turkey, a few years ago, contracted with the Thames Iron Works Company, London, for an iron-clad vessel, which should surpass in all respects any other in existence. The ship was built, but the Sultan could not pay for it. The British Admiralty had the first chance of buying it, but it was not improved; and Prussia has become the purchaser. She is 365 feet in length; breadth, 60 feet; of 6,000 tons burden; her engines, nominally of 1,500 horse-power, can be worked up to 7,000 horse-power; and the ship is so armored as to present at no point less than six inches of solid plate, and generally eight inches, backed by ten-inch teak, and a double iron skin. Her armament includes twenty-six three-hundred-pounders, and seven hundred men will be required to man the ship. Having become aware of the purchase, which might have been made by the British Admiralty but for red-tape and circumlocution, the London *Times* says: Woe betide any of our vessels of the Warrior or Minotaur class which shall meet her.

Train's Arrest.

The London *Star* narrates the circumstances of Train's arrest—the particulars of which do not differ materially from those that have been published—concluding its remarks as follows: One thing is certain, if any man living would like to make a "question," and a "complication," and an international difficulty, and general nuisance out of a policeman's mistake, Mr. Train is that individual. We should think he must be quite delighted, positively cock-a-hoop over his arrest, and that he will demand to be conducted to his dungeon with an exulting scorn worthy of any twenty Roman citizens. One thing is certain, however the matter may turn out, somebody has made a fool of himself in this business. Perhaps it may prove to be Mr. Train; but that certainly is not our present impression. We rather fancy that the captors will prove to have caught a most unmanageable and irrepressible tartar.

The Cleveland correspondent of the London *Times* says "it is stated that Train was accompanied on the steamer across the ocean by a detective who had telegraphed his departure and probable arrival in England."

American and French Cannon.

A Palliser 15-inch, 18-ton gun, made in strict accordance with Major Palliser's plan, and exactly similar to that which was exhibited at Paris, was lately sent to the proof butt for a trial, previous to being rifled. At the first round, with 100 pounds of powder and a four hundred pound shot, the breech of the gun was literally blown to atoms. The English papers contrast the fate of this gun, which was strengthened at the breech by two coiled wrought iron tubes, one drawn over the other, with the successful test of the 15-inch American gun. The two weapons offer very fair conditions of comparison. The Palliser is 12 inches calibre and 18 tons weight, the 15-inch is 15 inches calibre and 19½ tons weight, and both are of cast iron. So the old slur, that it is the vast mass of metal which preserves the American cast-iron columns from explosion is not proved by this occurrence.

Cabinet Guess-Work.

The New York letter to the Philadelphia *Ledger* says: Wall street bankers who are known to be on intimate terms with the Executive Department, are predicting to-day events at Washington which will excite the whole country. Not only Mr. McCulloch, but Mr. Seward also, they say will leave the Cabinet, and a very significant leading article in the day's *National Intelligencer*, looking in that direction, it is asserted with equal confidence, was inspired by the President himself. I am thus particular in noting, from time to time, what is said in Wall street of what is transpiring or going to transpire in Washington, because observation and experience prove that very often it has remarkable knowledge (in advance) of events that are coming to pass in that quarter. Doubtless there is a good deal of guess-work about it, but as it quite often hits the nail on the head, one cannot very well ignore it.

SWITZERLAND still preserves the custom of beheading by the sword criminals condemned to death. An execution took place in this manner at Mondon in the Canton of Taud, on the 10th of last month. An immense concourse of people was present, estimated by some to number as many as 12,000. The condemned man was seated in a chair, with his eyes bandaged, and his hands tied behind his back. An assistant seized his hair, the principal executioner raised his sword, which was short and broad, and weighed about five pounds; a sort of whistling sound was heard, and the head fell. The description of the whole scene, as given in the Swiss papers, reads like a chapter out of Scott's Anne of Geierstein.

BITUMINOUS PAVEMENTS.—The Lawrence (MASS.) *Sentinel* says coal tar and broken stone have been used in that city for some time for sidewalks and street crossings, and it answers the purpose so well that in a few years it will be the only material used for that purpose in the city. Loaded trucks and other very heavy vehicles pass over the crossings at all seasons without indenting them in the least, and they grow harder and better as they grow older. The sidewalks are always hard, smooth and clear, and, instead of being slippery, like brick and stone, they are as safe to walk on as a wooden floor; and the cost is less than that of any other known material. They neither crack, wear nor wash away.

SOMETHING new is spoken, as follows, in a New York letter: I saw on Broadway to-day, for the first time, an invention which struck me as being decidedly useful, viz: the "patent adjusting runner." A wagon came rapidly down the street, when to my surprise, I saw it was on runners. The wheels after being clogged so as not to turn around, were set on these runners, which were fastened on by clamps, and could be removed easily, thus obviating the necessity of purchasing sleighs. These would be a capital thing for our stages, and in fact all kinds of vehicles, and the inventor, whoever he may be, will doubtless see his fortune in the thing.

THAT there is no decline in the prices for real estate in this city is evident from the sale of the property at the corner of Broadway and Canal street yesterday. The corner lot, with improvements, covering 10,170 square feet, commenced with a bid of $300,000, and was knocked down at $305,000. The adjoining lot, 24 feet 10 inches front by 95 feet depth, on Broadway, started at $50,000 and was sold at $91,000, making a total of $496,000 for the two lots. At these high prices the auctioneer was of the opinion that the property was worth considerable more money.—*New York World.*

THE GRANT-JOHNSON CORRESPONDENCE.

The Opinions of the Press.

[From the Philadelphia Telegraph.]

With this the correspondence terminates for the present. Of its merits we need hardly express an opinion. The issue is one of veracity. It is a question of truth between Andrew Johnson and U. S. Grant. With the record which each has made, who can doubt the decision of the country? The one a traitor to his promises, a falsifier of every pledge, a violater of every oath which is most dear to a patriot. The other a steadfast, quiet, successful soldier, uncontaminated by politics, with the record of a great citizen and honorable man. We would rather believe a denial from General Grant when he merely shakes his head, without the utterance of a single word, than we would the oaths of Andrew Johnson, sworn by all that is most sacred. As it is, the General is completely vindicated; the attempts to injure his private character have failed; and the only effect of the whole *emeute* is to make Mr. Johnson appear in the light of a retailer of newspaper slanders and a malicious personal, as well as a reckless political enemy.

[From the Pittsburgh Chronicle.]

This correspondence will have a wonderful effect in confirming the popular confidence in General Grant. It will show the people that the man who conquered Lee, *can* talk about other subjects than horses and dogs, and talk well too. Who need complain of the silence of an individual who, when he does speak, speaks to the point, and whose speech invariably reflects the national sentiment. General Grant is not a talking statesman; but he is an acting one. He has the strong sense, firm will, and honest purpose which are now needed in statesmanship, and which, backed by the support of the nation, will finish in civil administration what was so nobly begun in the field of war.

[From the Philadelphia Bulletin.]

No one can read these letters without feeling that while the President is evasive, disingenuous, diplomatic and utterly false, General Grant is simple, honest, manly and to be believed. The word of Mr. Johnson and his servile Cabinet will count as nothing before the country, as opposed to the indignant self-vindication of General Grant. Mr. Johnson's whole accidental course has been stamped with insincerity. He has deceived whoever has trusted him. He has been false to the Republican party, false to the South, false to the freedmen, false even to the Democrats, and it would be strange indeed if he had been anything but false to Gen. Grant.

[From the Philadelphia Press.]

General Grant is a man who confessedly says little. Every time he has spoken it has been only when forced to do so by no common concurrence of events. The gauntlet which he flings down so boldly in the concluding paragraph, "I cannot but regard the whole matter as an attempt to involve me in the resistance to law * * and thus destroy my character before the country," possesses a startling significance when viewed in contrast with his habitual and constitutional reticence. Without question, here, as on every other occasion, he has left unsaid the bulk of what he knows. The humiliating details of the dark scheme to which Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, to our lasting shame and dishonor, he it said—has lent himself to kill off the really dangerous candidate for the next campaign, are suppressed. Propriety and regard for the national reputation forbid the publication of what is the disgraceful truth. Grant is not the man to complain or to become unreasonably alarmed. In fact, he has never spoken for himself, except when it was necessary to vindicate the credit and honor of the nation. Even after the splendid assertion of Donelson and Shiloh he suffered in silence from defamatory aspersions of the most unjust and offensive nature. It is something more than a personal grievance which has called forth the terrible indictment of the letter of the 3d instant.

PERSONAL.

—Mr. Bryant is now seventy-three. His eyes are little dimmed by age, and he has few of the infirmities of old men. He will walk four miles on the stretch with less signs of fatigue than are displayed by younger men; will leap a fence breast high with ease, or ascend a flight of stairs with great rapidity, stepping occasionally two or three steps at a time. He is apparently good for ten years more of busy life.

—Bishop Simpson, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, recently delivered an address to the students of the university of Mount Pleasant, Iowa. Doctor Elliot was on the rostrum, and the Bishop, pointing to him, said that near forty years ago he had walked eighty miles, carrying a little bundle of clothes, to become a student with the Doctor when he was President of Madison College.

—It is related that near Dantzig a young man of twenty-four, who had married a widow of forty-two, has just discovered since the marriage that his wife was his wet nurse. A French paper comments: "Rate it is! One always returns to his first love."

—The *Monteur Scientifique* asserts that one of the exhibitors at the late Paris Exhibition obtained a prize from the Commissioners for an instrument which has been known for the last two hundred years, as an original invention! The exhibitor in question is Father Secchi, the well-known Jesuit professor of Rome, and the instrument (which he called the "meteorograph") sent by him to the Exhibition gained him the first prize and the cross of an officer of the Legion of Honor. After these honors were awarded to Father Secchi, some scientific men examined the "meteorograph," and found that it was simply a copy of Morland's steel-yard compass, which was presented by its inventor to Charles II. in the seventeenth century.

—The dinner parties of Speaker Colfax are without wine or anything else stronger than chocolate and coffee, and they are said to be among the pleasantest of the season.

—Edwin Booth, during his late season of thirty weeks, averaged $5,000 a week. He is reputed to be the wealthiest member of the American stage. Maggie Mitchell only makes about $1,500 a week, and Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams $1,000.

—The *World's* Washington correspondent "J. B. S.," is Mr. J. B. Stillson, who was an army correspondent for that paper.

STATE ITEMS.

A delegation of Corplainter Indians are in Harrisburg seeking legislation concerning their tribe.

An application is to be made to the Legislature by the authorities of Harrisburg for power to borrow $200,000.

The Grand Jury of Blair county last week presented the county jail in Hollidaysburg as a nuisance, and totally unfit for the purpose for which it was designed.

The Mercer County Commissioners have purchased the property of the late General Forker, on the south side of the public square in Mercer, for the purpose of erecting a new jail.

The Mercer County Republican Committee will meet at Mercer on the 14th inst., for the purpose of electing delegates to the State Convention, which meets in Philadelphia, March 11th.

An agreement has been entered into between the trustees of the Chambersburg Academy and Mr. J. H. Shoemaker, of Acadenia, Juniata county, Pennsylvania, by which the new building erected on the site of the one burned by the rebels, and which is in an unfinished state, is to be completed. Mr. Shoemaker is to furnish the trustees $3,000, for which he gets a lease of the building for ten years. This arrangement has been made with the view of establishing a first class academy, under charge of Mr. S., who is said to be very successful as a teacher, and at present has charge of a school at Acadenia.

Mineral lands in Northampton county are rapidly changing hands. The American Slate Company of Bethlehem has sold 25 acres of their tract at Slatington to Mr. Samuel Caskie of the latter place for $25,000. Mr. Val. Hilburn of Easton had disposed of 25 acres of slate land in Northampton county to a Mr. Douglass of New York for $100,000. Mr. Hilburn has also bought a tract of slate property containing 10 acres of Mr. Henry Wert, of Slatington, for $29,000. All the above properties were only partially developed. There appears to be a very lively interest taken in that species of property this winter. Mr. J. Carroll sold his farm of 52 acres, containing zinc ore, for $1,000 an acre, to some Bethlehem and Philadelphia gentlemen. The Lehigh Valley Iron Company has built a tract of land containing 80 acres, from Jacob Schriver, for $75,000; the land has extensive limestone deposits.

Business in the Lehigh Valley is now somewhat dull, as in other sections of the country, but the iron men are making extensive preparations for the spring and summer. It is proposed to erect from twelve to fifteen furnaces during the coming season, and new stacks are now being erected in addition to those already in operation at the following places: Two at Bethlehem, one at Hellertown, one at Glendon, one at Allentown, one at Alburtis, one at Catasauqua, one at Hokendauqua, and one at Whitehall.

On last Friday, about eleven o'clock, as Mrs. Joshua Wright, of Washington, was attending her usual household duties, she was suddenly struck with apoplexy, and before a physician could be summoned, expired. She had been in her usual health, and the day before had been visiting in the country, and exhibited more than usual vivacity. She was the daughter of the Rev. John White, deceased, formerly of the Pittsburgh Conference of the M. E. Church, and a sister of J. W. F. White, Esq., formerly City Solicitor of Pittsburgh.

The Paris *Presse* publishes the following curious piece of intelligence: "The Minister of War has been for some time past in communication with M. Schultze, formerly a captain in the Prussian army, and the inventor of a new gunpowder, which he terms 'white powder.' The object of these communications is to secure for France the secret of manufacturing the preparation, in which neither saltpetre, charcoal, nor sulphur is used, these being the ingredients of the gunpowder now employed. The white powder is superior to the ordinary kind, especially for rifled arms, as it leaves no deposit in the barrel, and its projectile force is greater."

THE following, which we quote from a Boston paper, is quite as applicable to Pittsburgh as that city: "We are told that in Sybaritic Brooklyn the police compel the people to clear the sidewalks of snow and ice immediately after a storm. We believe that our own city has some ordinance of a similar import, but of course nobody pays any attention to it. Not many limbs are broken by reason of this neglect—not more than two or three a week—and as these are generally the limbs of poor people who would not be likely to prosecute the city, the authorities care very little."

We find a fish story in a western paper. Beaver Lake, Wisconsin, froze over wholly this year with only one small air hole, to which the fish crowded in such numbers that many were pushed out upon the ice, so that the farmers carried them off by the sled load to feed their hogs.

CITY MATTERS.

FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the Pittsburgh Firemen's Association will be held in their hall in City Building, Diamond, on Monday evening next, at seven o'clock.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL.—John A. Harper, Esq., Treasurer, has furnished us with the annual report of the managers of the Western Pennsylvania Hospital, for 1867. We have already given the material parts of the report, in our report of the proceedings of the contributors' meeting a few weeks since.

PITTSBURGH INSURANCE COMPANY.—The annual election for Directors of the Pittsburgh Insurance Company, was held on Tuesday, the 4th inst., when the following gentlemen were chosen: George Black, David Richey, A. Bradley, John Scott, Samuel McClurkan, James Marshall, James Collard, M. K. Moorhead, C. Arbuthnot, Wm. Carr, R. C. Hartley, D. R. Galway, James Gordon, C. A. Dravo, Andrew Miller, F. Rahm, C. Yeager.

THE SKATING RINK BENEFIT.—Mrs. M. Poindexter, Secretary, desires us to state that the managers of the Ladies' Relief Society, of Allegheny City, take great pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of three hundred and forty-five dollars and eighty-five cents, proceeds given by the Keystone Skating Rink, on Monday evening, and also offer their thanks to Messrs. Powers, Curtis, Goodrich, Pratt, Dodge, Barney and Miss Nellie Dean, for their services on the occasion.

PRESENTATION TO A CONDUCTOR.—Mr. Thomas Turner, the gentlemanly conductor of the Express train, on the Connellsville Railroad, was presented on Wednesday evening with a splendid gold watch, provided by the popular firm of J. R. Reed & Co., No. 68 Fifth street, the gift of his many friends, passengers on the road. The presentation took place at the Brinewell House, at Guffey's Station. W. D. Moore, Esq., made the presentation speech, to which Mr. Turner replied in an appropriate manner, after which the company adjourned to an elegant supper, gotten up for the occasion,

Washington Topics and Gossip.

GEN. GRANT AND THE PRESIDENT.

The friends of General Grant are delighted with the turn affairs have taken, and it is conceded in all circles that the unequivocal indorsement of the reconstruction measures, contained in his letters, will place him more firmly than ever, if that is possible, before the people as a man capable of withstanding the blandishment of power, and asserting his opinion regardless of the criminal machinations of his baffled superior. The excitement in political circles is intense, and will not abate until the whole case has been developed. In this connection I have authority for the statement that General Grant has in the whole of the struggle kept his own counsel, as usual, except in so far as he sought General Sherman's aid in trying to force the President to admit the falsehood contained in his letter to him. He wrote all of the letters to the President himself without consultation even with his most intimate friends and advisers, and none knew anything of their contents, except through the President, until the correspondence had progressed for several days. In addition to the explanation of the conversation on the subject in the Cabinet meeting on the 14th ult., I have learned that Gen. Grant expressed himself thoroughly astounded and abashed at the statement which the President made, to the effect that he had promised to act as his stool-pigeon, and that he was so astonished, that for a moment he lost his presence of mind, which never occurred to him before in his life. He admits privately that he commenced his reply to this statement by saying, "Well, Mr. President, you may have misunderstood—" but, recovering his self-possession, added—"you misapprehend entirely," or words to that effect. The baseness of the plan John Scott and his crew of so-called constitutional advisers, in construing this gentleman's unwillingness

The Daily Commercial

THE BLIND PSALMIST.

He sang the eyes of golden times
In rich, low lays of sacred rhymes,
Devotional, but elastic!
His fingers touched the violin's strings,
And at their sweet vibrations
The glory of an angel's wings
Hung o'er their aged patient.

His thin, white locks, like silver threads
On which the sun its radiance sheds,
Or like the moonlit snow,
Seemed with a lustre half divine,
Around his saintly brow to shine,
With every scar, of time-worn line
Was gilded with its glow.

His sightless balls to heaven upraised,
As with the spirit's eyes he gazed
On things invisible—
Reflecting some celestial light—
Were like a tranquil lake at night,
On which two mirrored planets bright,
The conclave's glory tell.

Thus, while the patriarchal saint
Heavenly sang to music quaint,
I saw old Homer rise
With buried centuries from the dead,
The laurel green upon his head,
As when the choirs of bards he led,
With rapt, but blinded eyes!

And Solo's tale again looked green,
As when the poet there was seen,
And Greece was in her prime;
While Pooay with epic fire
Did once again the Bard inspire,
As there he swept his mighty lyre,
To virtue through all time.

The vision changed to Albion's shore;
I saw a sightless Bard once more
From dust of ages freed!
I heard the harp and deathless song
Of glorious Milton float along,
While warblings from the birds that throng
His muse's Paradise!

And is it thus, when blindness brings
A veil before all outer things,
That visual spirits see
A World within, than this more bright,
Peopled with living forms of light,
And strewed with gems, as stars of night
Strew diamonds o'er the sea?

Then, reverend saint, though old and blind,
Even with the encumbrances of mind
Canst natural sight o'ereach;
Upsoar on faith's celestial wings,
Canst see unutterable things,
While only through such eyes as souls
And in thy songs find speech.

ERUPTION OF MT. VESUVIUS.

Graphic Description of the Torrent of Fire and Streams of Lava—Two Cities Threatened with the Fate of Pompeii.

[Naples Correspondence (January 22) London Times.]

Vesuvius excites no less interest than would the health of a royal patient. Bulletins are issued daily by Professor Palmieri, by the police and others; and there are reported eagerly by the journals. I propose, therefore, to give you a general statement of what the mountain has been about since my last continuous report, which was published in the *Times*, of January 2. About the end of last month a number of rivulets were flowing out of the cone, which, interlining the snow, presented a most remarkable appearance.

At the same time dense masses of white smoke ascended from the smaller cone, giving notice of the activity that prevailed below the surface. Signor Silvestri, already well known to science by his observations on Etna, had taken up his residence in the Observatory, and, together with Palmieri, recorded the various movements of the scientific instruments, and the ever-changing phases of the eruption. As has always been the case, every fresh discharge of lava was marked by deep hollow sounds in the crater, and by disturbances in the apparatus of the Observatory.

Up to this time the streams have been flowing over the ground broken up by former eruptions, thus finding frequent interruptions to their course; sometimes being compelled to deviate and make a circuit, at others pausing and rising until they surmounted the black, rugged mass before them. The direction taken by the great proportion of the lava at that time was Ottaviano, where it had arrived at the point called the Cognoli di Ottaiano, on the bed, in fact, which was formed in 1850. Woe, however, it was said, to Resina and Torre del Greco if the lava flowed in the direction of those cities. As if the apprehensions of the proprietà had invited it to do so, about the 4th or 5th of the month it assumed yet vaster proportions. More like a torrent than a stream of fire it burst out from the principal cone, overwhelmed the smaller one, and rushed down over the western side of the mountain on the beds of lava formed by the eruptions of 1858, 1859, 1850. Just above the Piano delle Ginestre it divided into two branches, one running towards the north in the direction of Resina, passing within a quarter of an hour's walk from the Observatory; the other southwards in the direction of Torre del Greco. According to certain predictions, therefore, those cities were in great danger, but sufficient account has not been taken of the periodicity of the course of the lava. Had it been continuous the danger would have been great, but there are always intervals of repose and cessation; the mountain stops now and then as if to recover its breath, and during those intervals the lava hardens on the surface and a new stream has to begin its labors.

Underneath this blackened surface, however, there is a burning red-hot mass, and woe to the rash pedestrian who attempts to cross it. In this state the mountain continued for a week, presenting the most brilliant spectacle it has yet exhibited. The two branches formed the sides of an ellipse, running down till they united beneath, at times overflowing and covering the whole intervening space. Nor less beautiful was the appearance when, the lava relaxing its course, the surface became partially black, for then it seemed as if the mountain was covered with brilliant gems. For two or three days the stream which flowed towards Resina, and in the one neighborhood of the Observatory, swiftly advanced with a velocity of 500 metres a day, and had it continued at this rate it would long since have been in the streets of the town; but owing to the causes already described, no such disaster occurred. That which was for some time in great danger was the road by which one ascends to the Hermitage on which the lava was advancing rapidly. The temporary pause of the two streams, and a slight change in the direction of one of them, however, allayed all apprehension for the fate of the towns lying beneath. It is estimated that at this time the depth of this bed of burning matter was from six to seven metres, 28 inches and 100ths being equal to a metre. Frequent shocks of earthquake were felt in Naples during this interval, and on the 11th, at midday, one was perceived very sensibly. For the last three or four days, though the instruments in the Observatory have been as active as ever, the lava has advanced with less rapidity, not less than 300 or 400 metres a day in the direction of Torre del Greco, which may now be considered safe, as it would take a month at the same rate to advance as far as the town. The measurement of the depth on the Piano delle Ginstre, which was taken on the night of the 12th, was eight metres. According to last night's report, the quantity of lava ejected was much diminished, and the Seismometer was less active, but these facts are not to be regarded as indications of the approaching cessation of the eruption. On the contrary, such intervals of repose we have had continually, and the probabilities are that a more violent outburst will follow. Of late the road to the Observatory has been deserted by visitors, who take that rather which lies between Resina and the Favorita. Thousands go up every night—it is the great nocturnal promenade—and many, misled by the apparent proximity of the stream, go up on foot, but it is a rugged and wearisome road, over huge masses of lava, and many are the tumbles and tattered dresses which are the consequence.

Engines for Common Roads.

The Edinburgh correspondent of the London *Telegraph* writes:

"One object of interest has been occasionally traveling on the roads about Leith and Edinburgh for a few weeks past. It was what is called a "road steamer," a machine like a small railroad engine set upon three wheels, one in front and two behind the middle—a machine weighing about five tons, capable of drawing sixty tons at a slow pace on a good road, of going over the roughest road and climbing the steepest, and of traveling over ploughed land or the like with the most perfect ease. It was the invention of Mr. R. H. Thomson, C. E., of Edinburgh, the inventor of a system of floating docks; of the steam winch, a curious and most effective rotary engine, which was exhibited at the recent Paris Exhibition and attracted much attention there, and of various other ingenious pieces of mechanism. The peculiarity of the new road steamer is that its three wheels are covered with large tires or hoops of india rubber, about five inches thick and two feet broad, being the largest castings of india rubber ever made; and costing each about £50 or £60. These india rubber tires take a hold of the ground like an elephant's foot. They spread over hollows, and stones and other obstructions sink into their elastic embrace. In short, they solve the problem of road steamers completely, as also of steamers to go over soft ground, and it is impossible to anticipate all the uses the new tires may be put to in the pursuits of agriculture or it may be in the operations of war.

"It has been suggested that these india-rubber tires will soon wear, but those which have been used in the experiments hitherto have scarcely sustained a scratch, although they have gone over rough metalled roads at various rates of speed, often much faster than the legal rate of four miles an hour. The only serious lesson as yet was made in one of them when crossing a big ditch over a bridge of a few trees thrown carlessly together. This new road steamer is intended to draw an omnibus in the island of Java where its inventor for several years resided, and it is now shipped, or about to be shipped, for its destination. I believe, however, it will soon have ons or more successors."

Choosing a Husband.

The *Herald of Health* for the current month contains an interesting article from Mrs. E. Oakes Smith entitled, "Choosing a Husband." The authoress in arguing that a woman has a right to choose a husband just as much so as a man has to choose a wife, says:

"I am by no means willing to have it understood that I counsel women to go about 'popping the question' to men here and there like an army of grenadiers; far from it. A man rarely 'pops the question' till he is pretty well assured in his own mind as to the kind of response he will receive; and in all cases a refined woman prevents a lover from explaining himself where she is bent upon a denial of his suit. In any true relation there is very little of this question and answer form so much talked about, and as to what is called 'coquetry,' a perpetual 'mask' upon the face, in the shape of concealed emotions; and that resolve to die rather than expose the story of the heart is all nonsense, very little of it occurs in real life. True hearted men and women are easier read than our romance writers seem to comprehend.

"Let our women be free not only to reject, but to choose, also. Men and women are likely to do this without any great expenditure of language, for the vocabulary of love is more expressive than words. I have known several women of refinement and intellect who owned that their husbands were rather sought after by them than otherwise, and these matches were certainly among the happiest I have ever known. Perhaps, if a woman decides a man in this way into marriage, she feels bound to make his condition a happy one."

Mrs. Lumpkin's Purple Silk.

A heavy, rustling, overbearing, aggressive shining, purple silk, scenting of operas, lace shawls, and chandeliers. Naturally, it was not well out of its wrapper when it began to bully me—that is, my wife, Mrs. Pleiades Lumpkin, and I. What, indeed, could such a silk be to a house with a three-ply carpet and an unmistakable flavor of dinner in its best room but an insult, instikate?

Why did Mrs. Lumpkin buy it? The *Bazar*, being a feminine oracle, may diaine. For my own part, I have never yet succeeded in resolving a woman's "because" into anything like a reason. From my view, nothing could have been more inappropriate. When the makers of that silk laid the threads together, and chose the tints, doubtless they had the wearer in mind—a round, rosy dame, stepping down from her coach with an air and a train. Apart from the facts of our little house, its "three-ply," and hair-cloth furniture, Mrs. Pleiades that woman? On the contrary, she is an anxious woman. She has careful lines about the mouth come of helping me in that long pull and strong pull needed to make both ends of our income meet. She has neither the roses, the swing, nor the plump contours. If she were a book, her title would be, "Thoughts on Pennyworths." You see, then, that whenever she wore it, this opulent silk must be a sly and constant satire upon her.

I have been speaking only of the silk in the raw, as it lay yet in its wrappings. Now it is true that it convicted us, whenever we looked at it, of our utter shabbiness. Still we had it then at a certain disadvantages. Mrs. Pleiades could do what she liked with it—make it into a coverlet if she pleased, and leave it to flout our imitation walnut bedstead and brown wall-paper. But for silks as for human beings there is no standing still. Following the lead of its destiny it must devlop into a dress. From that moment it began to require:—

First, a dress-maker. Mrs. Pleiades habitually made her own dresses; but from the very beginning it was so evident that she had nothing in common with her silk that she engaged a dress-maker without delay. The dress-maker was a great creature. She took my wife's measure—I mean her social measure—at a glance. She handled "the silk" audaciously, and threw my wife into an agony by suggesting that the pattern was short. She was a perfect Nena Sahib in our little bungalow. She destroyed our petty illusions, and our modest aspirations with a certain pleasure worthy of that monster. She *would* talk to us, poor minnows, of nothing but whales. She roused Mrs. Pleiades to a maddening envy of certain ladies whom she had never seen in her life. Finally she decreed that the dress should be piped, and trimmed with satin and lace.

Piped! Mrs. Pleiades came to me about. My motion was of some such subterranean nature as is under the pavements, a substitute for crinoline, perhaps, or something just discovered to be healthy.

"What are the pipes made for?" I asked in all innocence; "and won't they be very likely to carry about my dear?"

And I protest I never was so astonished as when Mrs. Pleiades flew out in a rage, and vowed "that I had no sympathy, and was laughing at her."

The dress was piped out of our little fund in bank. Mrs. Pleiades had not once thought of trimmings. She had achieved the silk by by months of clipping shillings here and hoarding pennies there: it was the one blossom of her self-denial. There was nothing left for leaves and buds. Nena Sahib scouted Mrs. Pleiades's timid suggestions of trimming with the silk, or of no trimming; and we were always at the disadvantage with this dress that we should have been with a white elephant or a fairy unexpectedly quartered upon us. Knowing nothing of the habits of the animal, we must believe whatever was told us concerning it.

So the dress was piped, and besprinkled with velvet and lace, and when Nena Sahib was paid also, it became clear that I should wear my old overcoat this winter. But who would not forego a new overcoat for the pleasure of teaching his wife a lesson?

A dress finished is the child come to man's estate. You know then where to rank it. Mrs. Pleiades's silk had become a dinner dress. But Mrs. Pleiades lays the cloth, broils the steak, and bakes the bread herself. Could Mrs. Pleiades broil and bake in a purple silk, piped and trimmed with satin? Or could Mrs. Pleiades, having dished the dinner in a calico, rush to her wardrobe and array herself in the purple silk, while the gravy cooled, and I thumped on the table? Or could Mrs. Pleiades wear the purple silk when she took her sewing of an evening across the way, or when "across the way" came over to us? No, a thousand times no. You may take liberties with an alpaca: there is adaptability in a merino; but it was not to be expected that Mrs. Pleiades's silk should conform to us. We were to conform to the silk. It was made for grand occasions. We were to manufacture the grand occasions. For people of our stamp there is but one grand occasion, and that is going to church.

But to what shall I liken this insatiable silk? It was like the relentless step-mother in the fairy tales. When the poor child has wound the tangled skein as thick as four persons, she must separate in their order thousands of mixed feathers, and when the feathers are in order she must find strawberries under the ice. One difficulty only hid another behind it. What should Mrs. Pleiades wear with the purple silk? Mrs. Pleiades has worn her cloak for three winters and it is brown. Mrs. Pleiades's bonnet is two winters old and it is green; and I think I have already hinted that we had exhausted our fund in the bank. Those were days of trial for Mrs. Pleiades. If wishing were a power, the brown cloak and green bonnet must have turned purple under our eyes. She had ransacked the trunks and rag-bags; she pored over the fashion-plates; she shut herself up of evenings. I, on my part, watched her struggles with solicitude, and blindly rejoiced when informed that she had an idea. In all our wedded life I have never seen Mrs. Pleiades so careworn and harassed.

My wife has always been a model of punctuality. At precisely a quarter of 10 she is ready to start for church. But on this Sunday—I am referring to the first appearance of the purple silk—she was late. She came down in a flustered state, and rather avoided my eyes as we went out of the door. I respected her nervousness, and talked about the weather, and it was only by degrees, and after quiet glances from under my hat brim, that I came to a definite conclusion regarding her appearance.

Something had happened to Mrs. Pleiades's cloak. It had always been a large, mercifully cozy wrap, the sort of cloak for which you might feel an actual friendship, and by which you might know Mrs. Pleiades any where, and in my secret heart I had always fancied that she produced in it a majestic and imposing effect. Now it was short, it had sleeves, it had shrunken in about her, it looked as if, stricken with sudden terror by the purple silk, it had attempted to end its wretched existence, and only stopped in the mad attempt just below Mrs. Pleiades's waist. The effect was disastrous. Mrs. Pleiades is accustomed to fullness and folds about the shoulders, and in her skimpeld diminished condition was plainly at a loss how to dispose of her hands and arms. She was equally troubled with her train! Worthy woman, what had she to do with trains? She was doubtful about the gorgeous silk among the sober walking-dresses around her. She wondered what people said of her brown cloak and green bonnet. She wished that her gloves were fresher, and that they were not black. If she had committed murder, she could hardly have looked more conscious and uncomfortable. Mrs. Pleiades's savings, our fund in bank, her anxieties, researches, and struggles, had only made her ridiculous and uncomfortable.

You think, my dear Madam, that I had better have listened to the sermon than to sit there poking fun at my wife? But I was not poking fun. I was pondering, as became a philosopher, on one of the deepest mysteries in the feminine make-up. Mrs. Pleiades is a fair example, not a notable exception, to the rest of womankind. Plenty of women there are like her, for whom, given a merino, and the result is happiness; given a silk, and the result is misery. Why will nine out of ten of such women choose the silk? I am convinced, by wretched experiences, that there is some perverse domestic demon who breaks the bottle in the medicine chest that is to be wanted next in the middle of the night, and keeps the trunk in which are the children's night-clothes when part of your baggage is left behind. Can there be a similar shopping-demon, airily promenading beside the walking clerks, and maliciously deciding the wavering woman in the plain shawl and the puzzled, apple-cheeked country girl secretly counting her money under the shelter of a pile of cloakings?
—*Harper's Bazar.*

Curious Discoveries.

The Naples (Italy) *Journal* gives the following account of some interesting discoveries:

It is a large chest lined with iron, profusely ornamented with bronze reliefs, and mounted on four feet. There is no real lock, but the lid opens and shuts by means of a little apparatus that served instead of one, and which was fastened to the chest by slips of metal, of which the traces may yet be seen. The surface of the lid is in the form of a rectangle and nearly a metre in length, and capriciously ornamented with a branch of ivy in bronze. This ornament is half destroyed, but the sculptures remain, and are extremely beautiful. In the center of the lid is the head of a man, and at the four corners are two busts of winged children, crowned with flowers and images of Diana. Immediately under the point where a ring was fixed for raising the lid, is a noble head of a dog. This is said to be a *chef d'œuvre*, and the heads of the children are also miracles of grace and beauty, such as might have served for models to Ghiberti when he carved the cherubs on the door of the Baptistery at Florence.

The remains of another chest have also been found, containing several articles in gold; among others a *bulla*. This was a case like a locket, for holding souvenirs and small articles of value. Roman boys wore such ornaments round the neck till they arrived at the age of fifteen. Then assuming the *toga varillis*, they laid aside the *bulla*, and attached them to the images of the household deities. Certain *bulle* were devoted to the reception of royal documents, and contained the seal of the sovereign, and it is as an inheritance from this pagan custom that the proclamations of the Pope made at Rome are called *bulls*.

A more remarkable discovery than that of treasure boxes at Pompeii, is announced in the island of Alcatraz, in the Grecian Archipelago. A vast cavern has been found, containing an infinite number of marble sculptures, representing with wonderful fidelity all sorts of plants and trees. It is a subterranean garden, where every stone projection or festoon represents a petrified vegetation—the whole is transparently white, crystallized marble.

The most striking object in the collection is a pyramid about a metre in height, perfectly straight, and crowned with foliage. It constitutes the most beautiful marble tree that can be imagined. All the details have preserved a finish and freshness as exquisite as if they had just come from the hand of the sculptor. This grotto is certainly destined to become an important rendezvous for tourists.

Still another discovery—this time from the eastern coast of Africa. Here, according to Greek tradition the home of the Pygmies, certain veracious travelers profess to have discovered a Lilliputian race, who are not more than half a metre high, about a foot and a half. These little people are black, extremely intelligent, and social and amiable in their behavior towards their neighbors. They are designated among these latter by the name of Cinocili, which means wonderful. *L'Univers*, which relates to the discovery of this surprising people, recommends such of its readers as wish to obtain a vivid idea of them, to study at the Museum of the Faculty of Medicine, the wax statue of Nicolas Bebe Feral. This was the dwarf, who in the last century was the darling of King Stanislaus of Poland, and who was accustomed to be put to bed in a good-sized slipper.

A Strange Story.

Strange stories have been from time to time related of jewels, rings, and even watches, found in fishes when bought and opened, and subsequently returned to their owner. Whether or not these stories be true, we of course, cannot say, but we vouch for the entire truth of the following, related by a clergyman, himself the hero of the story, to a wondering circle of listeners. Though expectant of something strange as a *finale*, they were by no means prepared for the actual denouement:

"It was one summer twilight," said he, "that, standing on a rustic bridge which spanned a well-known trout stream near my father's house I won from the girl I had long loved the promise to be my wife. She was something of a coquette and I had a rival in the field; so, to make the matter sure to myself and evident to others, I drew from her hand a ring which she had often declared she would only give to her betrothed lover and transferred it to my own finger.

"It was my mother's engagement ring," said she, half in earnest, and half playfully, "and there is a superstition connected with it. So long as you keep and wear it, we are engaged; but if you lose or part with it in any way, the engagement is broken. So take good care."

"Some weeks after, she went away on a visit, and then my great consolation was to haunt that favorite spot on the bridge which had been our trysting place. Once leaning over the railing, and thinking of our betrothal, I took from my finger the treasured ring, and gazed fondly on the initials—her's as well as her mother's—engraven within. In attempting to replace it, the golden circle fell from my grasp and disappeared in the waters below.

"Only a lover under similar circumstances can imagine how I felt. Day and night I mourned discomolate, my lost treasure, and my great dread was her returning and finding the ring missing. Yet strange to say, I had a singular presentiment or intuition that I should recover it, though by what means I had no idea.

"Not long after, fishing in the same stream, some distance below the bridge, I fell to thinking of my lost ring. If I could fish it up—and just then there was a quiver, a tug, a pull, and a struggle at my line, and after some play I drew out a large, fine trout. At the self same moment the thought suddenly and unaccountably flashed into my mind that the ring—my lost ring—was to be found in his body. I cannot account for the feeling, but I know it was heightened into almost a conviction when, upon grasping the victim I perceived on a portion of his body a singular protuberance, and felt there beneath the skin something like a hard foreign substance.

"I seized my large pocket clasp-knife. Eagerness had made me cruel, yet not more so than if I had left my victim to die a slow and lingering death. I cut off his head, and then, with a trembling hand, I ripped open his body and explored the suspicious protuberance. My knife grated against something hard, and—yes, I caught the glitter of some shining substance! Imagine my feelings when, with a beating heart and trembling hand, I drew forth—

"The ring, uncle!" breathlessly inquired Nellie,

"No, my dear. Only a piece of green glass!" The general consternation and indignation may be imagined.

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WHEATON'S OINTMENT will cure Salt Rheum.
WHEATON'S OINTMENT cures Old Sores.
WHEATON'S OINTMENT cures all Diseases of the Skin.
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☞AN INTERESTING LETTER TO MR. LEOPOLD HOFF (Hoff's Malt Extract Depot, 542 Broadway, New York), by Thomas Harford, Esq., of the New York "Home Journal":

DEAR SIR: As an act of gratitude to you, and for the advantage of any one who may read this, I wish to say that my daughter has derived great relief and benefit from the use of your MALT EXTRACT BEVERAGE OF HEALTH. She has been ill for a long time, suffering from consumption, nervous debility, loss of blood and strength. I followed the advice of the well-known Dr. W. John Mitchell, to try your Malt Beverage, and am pleased to admit that from its use she has received *great* benefit, and we trust to be recovering her health. She feels compelled to take it continually, for if she misses it but one day she suffers considerably, and there is a relapse of her old complaint and a return of physical weakness. Therefore your preparation should be generally known as a wonderful remedy.
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TREASURY DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA.
HARRISBURG, December 18, 1867.

NOTICE
TO THE
HOLDERS OF THE
LOANS
OF THE
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
DUE JULY 1st, 1868.

THE FOLLOWING

LOANS,
DUE JULY 1st, 1868,
WILL BE REDEEMED WITH INTEREST
TO DATE OF PAYMENT ON PRESENTATION AT THE
FARMERS' AND MECHANICS'
NATIONAL BANK,
OF
PHILADELPHIA.
VIZ:
LOAN OF MARCH 27, 1839, DUE JULY 1, 1868.
LOAN OF JULY 10, 1839, DUE JULY 1, 1868.
Interest on the above LOANS will cease on the 1st OF JULY, 1868.
FRANCIS JORDAN,
SECRETARY OF STATE.
JOHN F. HARTRANFT,
AUDITOR GENERAL.
W. H. KEMBLE,
STATE TREASURER.
COMMISSIONERS OF SINKING FUND.
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The Shareholders of the EXCHANGE AND FOURTH NATIONAL BANKS of Pittsburgh, and others in the own Stock in any of the National Banks of other counties in the State and who reside in this county, are hereby notified the Books will be open on the 20 DAY OF MARCH NEXT, for the receipt of the Three Mill State Tax for 1867, as per act of Assembly, approved April 7th, 1867, and will remain open the usual time given for the receipt of other taxes, after which time Collectors will be appointed to collect from delinquents the other taxes are collected.
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The Daily Commercial

RECONSTRUCTION.

Arkansas Convention.

MEMPHIS, February 5.—The *Appeal's* Little Rock special to-day says: In the Convention Mr. Hinds, from the Committee on Elective Franchise, made a lengthy report, which proposes to disfranchise nearly all respectable people in the State. Mr. Cypert made a minority report, which was voted down.

Mr. Hinds, from the Select Committee, reported a memorial praying Congress to sell at public auction Hot Springs, the proceeds to be invested in Government securities, the interest to go to the school fund. Mr. Gantt said the Committee had no business to ask Congress to Committee had no business to ask Congress to take private property, as it had been paid for. It was the dishonest promptings of a bad heart, to set upon the hard earned gains of honest men, that induced the memorial. They might as well memorialize Congress to take his pocket book for free schools as to take this property, which belonged to private parties. The previous question cut off debate, and the bill was rushed through by a strict party vote.

Louisiana Convention.

NEW ORLEANS, February 6.—In the Convention to-day, resolutions were offered by a colored member, legalizing the living together of parties as man and wife, and legitimatizing their offspring. They were voted down by a large majority.

Considerable miscellaneous business was transacted. Article 147, as adopted, is as follows: The ordinance of secession of Louisiana, passed January 26, 1861, is hereby declared null and void. The constitution adopted in 1864, and all previous constitutions of the State of Louisiana are declared to be superceded by this constitution.

Street Commissioner Baker refused to give up his office this morning, when presented with a copy of General Hancock's order by his successor, saying he did not recognize the force of this order. He, however, recognized its force when an officer was sent to enforce it.

Georgia Convention.

ATLANTA, February 6.—In the Convention to-day, a motion to reconsider the vote taken yesterday on the relief clause, and another to substitute the Constitution of 1865 with amendments for the Committee's report, were tabled. Pending discussion of the report on Executive Department, the death of Mr. Hillyer, a delegate from Baldwin county, was announced, whereupon the Convention adjourned.

Virginia Convention.

RICHMOND, February 6.—In the Convention to-day, the clause relating to eligibility of Governor, requiring him to be a citizen of the United States ten years and of Virginia three years, was adopted. An amendment to declare ineligible to office any person who aided in the rebellion was defeated by a majority of one. An amendment to insert the word "white" in the clause was defeated. Several other sections, not differing materially from the old constitution, were adopted.

North Carolina Convention.

RALEIGH, February 6.—The Convention to-day passed the tax bill. Also, a resolution requesting General Canby to issue an order prohibiting the sale and sacrifice of property now under execution. The article of the Constitution on Governor and State executive officers was amended to require their election for four years.

Florida Convention.

TALLAHASSEE, February 6.—To-day was the thirteenth day of the Convention. The sessions are still in secret, without quorum. An ordinance has been passed authorizing the issue of scrip to pay off the Convention. They have quite completed the constitution, and will probably adjourn to-morrow. General Sickles has been notified of the proceedings by telegraph.

South Carolina Convention.

CHARLESTON, February 6.—The Convention to-day was occupied in the discussion of the bill of rights. The first section was passed, in substance as follows: First, all men are born free and equal. Second, slavery is forever prohibited. Third, vests power in the people and bestows the right to modify the form of government. Fourth, citizens owe paramount allegiance to the Government of the United States. Fifth, future attempts to dissolve the Union shall be related with all the power of the State. Sixth, the right of the people to assemble is not to be abridged. Seventh, the right of free speech and liberty of the press. Adjourned.

MEXICO.

Gale at Vera Cruz—Vessels Wrecked—Attempt at Revolution Feared—Railroad Projects, &c., &c.

HAVANA, February 6.—A steamer from Vera Cruz reports that a severe gale visited that harbor, January 29. The steamship Nightingale foundered at her anchorage. Seven of the crew were drowned. All the officers and the rest of the crew were saved. The Bark Bienville, from New Orleans, was also wrecked. The crew were saved.

There were rumors that several generals in the Mexican army had pronounced against the Government, and an attempt at revolution was feared.

It is reported Porfirio Diaz will soon be appointed Minister of War.

The Mexican Congress passed a bill raising the tariff. The bill to abolish the death penalty was defeated.

Escobedo had arrived at the Capital. It was rumored that he intended to resign command of the third division of the army.

Mexican travelers in Guatemala were ill-treated, in consequence of the Church troubles.

The project for uniting Mexico with the United States by rail is in the hands of a commission.

Companies are forming to work the gold mines discovered in Oajaca.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Resolutions to be Introduced in the House Dissolving Connection with the Dominion.

HALIFAX, February 6.—In the House to-day notice was given that resolutions relating to the repeal of the Union act would be introduced on Saturday, and an address to the Queen, embodying their substance, informing Her Majesty that the loyal people of Nova Scotia do not, in any manner, desire to be confederated with Canada, and praying that she revoke her proclamation and cause the British North American Confederation to be repealed as far as regards Nova Scotia.

MURDER BY POISONING.

A Sister Charged with Poisoning Her Brother One Year Ago.

Cleveland is keeping step with Chicago, and is fast gaining an unenviable notoriety. The latest horror there is the alleged murder of a brother by his sister by means of poison. The circumstances of the case are briefly these: On the 3d of February, 1867, a young man, named William Parquette, died under somewhat suspicious circumstances. The doctor who attended him proposed a *post mortem* examination, but his sister, with whom he had been living, objected. Recent circumstances have led to the suspicion that his sister, who passes by the name of Sarah M. Victor, poisoned her brother to obtain possession of his effects, which he had willed to her, and in order to realize a life insurance policy of $2,000, which he had effected, for her own benefit, upon her brother's life. The body was disinterred, and the woman arrested on Wednesday. A large quantity of arsenic has been discovered in the body. The case creates intense excitement. Mrs. Victor alleges that her brother was poisoned, it was done from eating a pie sent him by another sister named Mrs. Gray. It was through the latter that the murder was brought to light.

Branch Railroad to Somerset.

A meeting of the citizens of Somerset and vicinity was held on Saturday evening, to take into consideration the proposition for the construction of a branch road leading from Somerset to the main line of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad. The object of the meeting was ably set forth by Messrs. Hugus, Scull, W. J. Baer, Koddy, and J. J. Schell, all of whom urged the importance of speedy action on the part of the citizens, and consultation with the President and Directors of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company with reference to the proposed branch. The following named gentlemen were appointed a committee to confer with the officers of the above named company: Messrs. M. A. Santner, W. J. Baer, Isaac Hugus, Edward Scull, J. D. Koddy, and J. J. Schell. The following resolution, offered by W. J. Baer, Esq., was unanimously approved:

Resolved, That W. Coleman Husbart, the able and efficient President of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company; R. F. Latrobe, its Chief Engineer; Fred. Scull, its Comptroller, and all its Board of Directors, are entitled to our warmest thanks for the persevering energy and skill with which they have for years maintained the rights of their Company against a powerful monopoly, and now that legal action has received the approval of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and the tardy but just recognition of the Legislature, we trust that they may be able to overcome all future obstacles, and reap the rich reward of their labors in an early completion of the road.

The following named gentlemen were appointed a committee to solicit and receive subscriptions for the construction of the branch road, in case the conference with the officers of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company proves satisfactory: Wm. J. Baer, A. T. Anderson and Cyrus Meyers, of Somerset borough; Jacob D. Miller, Philip Walker and Abraham Beam, of Somerset township; Samuel Barclay and Wm. Baker, of Milford township; Christ. L. Miller and Henry Schlag, of Jefferson township; Ed. Kiernan, of Jenner township; John H. Snyder, of Stoystown borough; and Samuel Dunham, of Stoystown township.

CITY MATTERS.

PROF. COWPER'S GRAND SOIREE.—Prof. Cowper will give a grand soiree at his new Assembly Rooms, 51 Fifth street, opposite the old theater, this evening. These soirees are given by the Professor in order that parents may attend and witness the proficiency of their children in the art of dancing, and are very enjoyable.

The Allegheny Trust Company.

Among the Banking institutions of our State which contribute largely to our financial character, may be named the Allegheny Trust Co., of Allegheny City. This is a Bank of Discount and is widely known as one of the most substantial concerns in the Commonwealth. The officers are gentlemen of business experience and integrity, and the fact that they give their personal attention to the transactions of the Bank, is an additional assurance that must add to its already extensive popularity. We commend the Allegheny Trust Co., to the attention of our readers generally. The Company's advertisement will be found on our second page.

The Baymakers.

Our citizens generally remember with pleasure the entertainment given at the Academy of Music last winter, when George F. Root's famous musical composition, "The Haymakers," was rendered by our best amateur musical talent, under the direction of Miss Ernst. We are gratified to be able to state that this beautiful piece will be repeated at the same place on the 18th inst., and under the supervision of the same lady, assisted by Miss Jones. We bespeak for them, in advance, the most liberal patronage. "The Haymakers" is pronounced by competent judges one of the best compositions extant, and with the experience afforded by its representation last winter, we feel satisfied that it cannot fail to be put upon the Academy of Music stage in the most admirable and successful manner.

Smithson, Vankook & McClelland.

This new firm, composed, however, of active and energetic men familiar with their business, continues to do a very extensive auction trade, and there is no end to the bargains they daily make. The members of the firm have individually been connected with the business at 55 and 57 Fifth street, under Masonic Hall, for a number of years, have respectively every qualification for their calling, and are consequently enlarging their trade and adding to their already very large patronage. As to the extent of their sales we are not posted, but know enough to state that from the commencement of the year to this time they have not been able to attend to sales every day, and have been compelled to advertise for some evening to handle it, when the three accessed set upon him and beat him badly. The parties were examined and held in bail.

Mrs. Zee next made an information against Theodore Braunschweig, who, she alleges that Henry came into her house, seized her by the throat and struck her upon the arm with such violence as to cause her to think the limb was broken. Her daughter and "the other man" interfered to prevent further violence. Henry was unable to procure bail, and was sent to jail.

Special Importations.

The elegant stock of Real Point Laces at Macrum & Carlisle's, is exciting the curiosity of the ladies. It is a real treat to look at the array of magnificent designs, as well as the cunning workmanship and great delicacy of the fabric.

PEOPLE'S PASSENGER RAILWAY.

Meeting of Citizens Favorable to the Project—Resolutions, &c.

A large meeting of the citizens of Lawrenceville and vicinity was held at Mechanics' Hall, Lawrenceville, last evening, for the purpose of taking action in regard to the proposed passenger railway company, between the Custom House and East Liberty, by way of Liberty street.

C. H. Armstrong, Esq., of the Ninth ward, was called to preside, and Michael Berger was appointed Secretary.

The object of the meeting was stated by Mr. Walker. He said that there were nearly twenty thousand people in Lawrenceville and vicinity, east of the city line, and that to carry this vast population to and from the city, a distance of nearly three miles, there is but one passenger railway, and even now the cars of this route are so crowded that both ladies and gentlemen have to stand up the whole length of the ride. He dwelt upon this matter at some length, and very cogently and forcibly showed the necessity of a new road, and that in having but one line to accommodate so large a population was evidence of a want of the proper public spirit.

N. W. Shaffer, Esq., from a Committee on Resolutions, reported the following, which were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, A bill is now pending before the Legislature for the incorporation of the People's Passenger Railway Company of Pittsburgh; and whereas, the said bill very unexpectedly meets with most determined resistance, not from the people but from a rival line; therefore,

Resolved, That the proper accommodation of the citizens living along the line of the proposed road, in Lawrenceville and Bloomfield, requires an additional facilities of passenger railway cars, and in this case another line has become a great public necessity; and

That the only opposition to said proposed road comes directly or indirectly from a rival line, and that if Messrs. Shaffer, Walker, Bigham of Lawrenceville, &c., are consulted as they should be, there is and would be travel enough to support two or even more railways.

That our Senators and Representatives in Harrisburg be instructed to use all honorable means to have the proposed charter enacted into a law.

That our Councilmen be requested to add the said road with the proper time comes, by voting the use of the streets.

That the proposed incorporators are the substantial men of this community, and that we have entire confidence in their honesty and integrity as men, and that they are earnestly, honestly and faithfully working to supply a want long felt by this whole community.

That we tender our thanks to Major A. M. Brown, for his bold and timely opposition in Council to the efforts of the stockholders of the rival line to defeat the proper road.

That on close examination and inquiry we find in the connitrance to said road presented to Councils, the names of persons are appended thereto who have never had the same themselves or authority one to sign it for them.

That Liberty street is strictly feet street, and that a railroad railway will not in the least interfere with the travel on the same or obstruct it as a street.

After the adoption of the resolutions the meeting adjourned.

KEYSTONE SKATING RINK.

Match for the Championship Decided—The Masquerade.

At two o'clock yesterday afternoon the skating contest for the championship and the gold medal was resumed at the Rink, in the presence of six or eight hundred persons, and resulted in the success of Frank Swift, President of the New York Skating Club. The score stood as follows:

Frank Swift	90 points.
Callie Curtis	82 "
Reuben W. Pratt	48 "
John Powers	45 "

Each figure was decided on separately, and the judges voted sealed ballots, which were opened when the contest was concluded. The medal will be presented to Mr. Swift on Saturday evening, at which time Mr. Curtis will receive the second prize, one hundred dollars in greenbacks.

THE MASQUERADE.

The masquerade of the season took place at the Rink last evening. As early as seven o'clock, the spectators began to gather, and in an hour the large building was crowded with people—the number present being estimated at two thousand. The masqueraders appeared in every conceivable costume, many of the dresses being elegant, but the majority comprised the comical and grotesque. About two hundred persons appeared on the ice, and apparently enjoyed themselves hugely. During the evening the contestants for the championship made their appearance, and gave a very creditable exhibition of fancy skating. Miss Nellie Dean, of Chicago, was also present, and her graceful movements were much admired. The exhibition was an immense success, and its repetition at an early day may be anticipated.

Election of Officers of I. O. G. T.

The officers elect of Luken's Lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars, of McKeesport, to serve for the ensuing term, ending May 1st, were installed on Tuesday evening, as follows: W. C. T., John J. Davis; W. V. T., Mrs. Wadsworth; W. S., D. S. Haney; W. T., Calvin Phillips. W. J. G., James Woods; W. O. G., Florence Sill; W. A. S., Martha Swaney; W. F. S., W. D. Wales; W. W. H. Gould; W. D. M., Nanny Waters, W. Chaplain, B. D. Hall; W. R. H. S., Nathaniel McPherson; W. L. H. S., Jennie Lynch; P. W. C. T., J. E. Patterson; L. D., G. G. O'Brien. Lukens Lodge was organized about six months since, and now numbers one hundred and seventy members. It is doing great good in the community, and is one of the best Lodges in the district. The meetings are held every Tuesday evening in Odd Fellows' Hall.

The following officers have been elected by Friendship Lodge, No. 117, I. O. G. T., to serve for the ensuing term: W. C. T., W. M. McCombs; W. V. T., Emma Johnston; W. S., D. C. Stewart; W. T., Samuel Hamilton; W. D. G., Zorilda Hull; W. O. G., Samuel Cordiman. The following appointments were made: W. G. S., Charles T. Reed; W. F. S., James Mapston; W. C., Mrs. D. G. Wendt; W. Mat., Wm. Young; W. D. M., Jennie Pearson; W. L. H. S., Melissa Burtt; W. R. K. S., Jennie Scott.

Important Sales of Real Estate.

Messrs. Smithson, Vanhook & McClelland, auctioneers, will offer for sale, by auction, the following described property:

Saturday, February 8th, at 3 o'clock, P. M., on the premises, corner of Cliff, Gum and Bedford streets, that handsome and valuable three story brick dwelling house of 16 rooms, finished in the most elegant style, with every modern convenience pertaining to a first class dwelling. Lot 75 feet front by 280 feet in depth. See auction advertisement.

Monday, February 10th, at 2½ o'clock, P. M., on the premises, will be sold those two story (new) brick houses, of nine rooms each, being Nos. 154, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, Sheffield street, near Bidwell street, Allegheny city. These houses are of modern style and elegantly finished, having the most recent improvements of first class dwellings. Lot has a front of 20 feet by 137½ feet in depth. See auction advertisement.

Tuesday, February 11th, at 3 o'clock, P. M., on the premises, will be sold that very eligibly situated, three story brick dwelling house, No. 12 Hand street. See auction advertisement.

Thursday, February 13th, at 10 o'clock, A. M., the lease and fixtures of that commodious brewery, No. 110 First street, including engine and boiler, horses, wagons, &c., large stock of empty barrels, &c. See auction advertisement of Smithson, Vanhook & McClelland, 55 and 57 Fifth street.

Shetter's Plow-Potato Planter and Seeding Machine

Is now on exhibition at Spratt, Jones & Co.'s, No. 145 Liberty street, where parties desiring can see it in operation. State and county rights for sale.

Ross Street Dwelling at Orphan's Court Sale.

That desirable dwelling, No. 30 Ross street, the late residence of C. W. Ricketson, Esq., deceased, will be sold this morning at 10 o'clock, at the Court House. Parties in search of a desirable property in a good location, should be on hand. See auction advertisement of John D. Bailey & Bro.

A PROMINENT WESTERN PHYSICIAN SAYS: "Wilson's Pills are THE ONLY COMBINATION I have ever met with in a long course of practice that really possesses anything curative or specific for SICK HEADACHE." All the Druggists sell them.

THE WEED SEWING MACHINE COMPANY have been exceedingly fortunate in the introduction of their machines to the public. Their latest and most popular design, *the Family Favorite*, is a perfect model of beauty and elegance, at the same time combining those essential features of great strength and durability with a high rate of speed.

Not a lady who has once become a possessor of the Weed Machine can be found who has any desire to part with it.—*Independent.*

Office, 113 Grant street.

An Old Nurse for Children.

Don't fail to procure MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP for children teething. No mother who has ever tried it will consent to let her child pass through this critical period without the aid of this invaluable preparation. It gives rest to the mother, and relief and health to the child. Cures wind colic, and regulates the bowels. 25 cents a bottle. Be sure and call for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," having the *fac-simile* of "Curtis & Perkins" on the outside wrapper. All others are base imitations.

Wanted in a Private Family.

A physician wishes to rent a furnished sleeping room in a private family, with or without tea and breakfast, in Allegheny City. Address Box 266, Pittsburgh Postoffice.

Health the Highest Blessing.

A circular free to everybody. Address E. S. Aborn, M. D., 134 Smithfield street.

THROAT AFFECTIONS, Consumption, Chronic Catarrh of the Head. Diseases of the Eye and Ear successfully treated by Dr. Aborn, 134 Smithfield street. Office hours from 9 A. M. to 4 P. M.

REVENUE STAMPS, of all denominations, for sale at the stamp window of the Postoffice. 7TH-tf

TO BEAUTIFY and dress the hair, and restore it to its natural color, and impart that beautiful gloss, odor, etc., use Mrs. S. A. Allen's Improved (New style) Hair Restorer or Dressing (in one bottle.) Every Druggist sells it. Price one dollar. MWF

Throat Affections.

Consumption, Chronic Catarrh of the Head, Diseases of the Eye and Ear successfully treated by Dr. Aborn, 134 Smithfield street. Office hours from 9 A. M. to 4 P. M.

BE SURE and call for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," having the *fac-simile* of "Curtis & Perkins" on the outside wrapper. All others are base imitations. m-w-f

Obstinate Cases of Neuralgia, Nerve-Ache,

And other painful nervous complaints readily succumb to the influence of Dr. TURNER'S TIC-DOULOUREUX, or UNIVERSAL NEURALGIA PILL. This medicine is a *specific* for such maladies. It stimulates the *nerve fluid* when it has become enfeebled, and promotes a healthy reaction. Apothecaries have it. Principal Depot, 120 TREMONT STREET, BOSTON, Mass. Price, $1.00 per package; by mail, two postage stamps extra.

McClarren & McKennan, Druggists, Agents, Pittsburgh. eod

BE SURE and call for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," having the *fac-simile* of "Curtis & Perkins" on the outside wrapper. All others are base imitations.

Truth Stranger than Fiction.

NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, } August 19, 1867.

MESSRS. HOSTETTER & SMITH:

Gentlemen:—My wife having received so much benefit from your Bitters, I deem it my duty to give testimony in their favor. About one and a half years since she had a very severe attack of Dyspepsia or Bloody Flux, which became chronic and continued for the above period of time, baffling the most skilful physicians in the country. We finally became discouraged, and gave up all hope of her recovery, when, by accident, my attention was called to your most valuable Bitters by Messrs. Collins & Thurston, Druggists, handing me one of your Almanacs. Finding them recommended for Bloody Flux, I bought one bottle, and commenced giving according to directions; before *one-third of the bottle* had been taken she was entirely cured, and enjoys perfectly good health at this time.

Most respectfully,

W. D. NUTTER.

BRANCHVILLE, ALA., March 11, 1867.

MESSRS. HOSTETTER & SMITH, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Sirs:—I am hardly able to express my gratitude for the benefit I have derived from the use of your STOMACH BITTERS. I have been afflicted with Liver complaint and Dyspepsia for more than five years, during which I suffered no little. My physicians failed to give me permanent relief. I became melancholy and unhappy; my constitution was much broken down by using mercury. Accidentally meeting with one of your Almanacs, it induced me to procure a few bottles of your Bitters, which afforded me very great relief; and it is my sincere opinion that they will soon effect a permanent cure. I was prompted to write you, and my recovery through your Bitters will be little short of a miracle. My neighbors express surprise at seeing me so much improved in health, and look upon my rapid recovery as wonderful.

Gratefully yours,

ROBT. F. NEWTON, P. M.

Similia Similibus Curantur.

RHEUMATISM! RHEUMATISM!

It is well known that bathing, ointments, and external applications, only drive Rheumatism from one part of the system to another, sometimes with fatal results. HUMPHREY'S SPECIFIC HOMŒOPATHIC RHEUMATIC P LLS often cure the worst and most protracted cases. This simple medicated Cayenne Pill will do more to eradicate the disease than quantities of other medicines, and has cured when all other means have failed. Price 25 cents per box. Six boxes for $1 25.

FAMILY CASES

Of 35 large vials, morocco case, containing a specific for acute ordinary disease a family is subject to, and a book of directions . . . $10 00

Smaller FAMILY and TRAVELING cases with 20 to 28 vials from . . . $5 to $8

These Remedies, by the case or single box, are sent to any part of the country, by Mail or Express, free of charge, on receipt of the price. Address HUMPHREYS' SPECIFIC

Homœopathic Medicine Company,

Office and Depot, No. 562 Broadway, New York.

Dr. Humphreys is consulted daily at his office, personally or by letter, as above, for all forms of disease.

B. L. FAHNESTOCK & CO.,
Wholesale Agents.

A. Torrence, Geo. H. Keyser, E. Miner, Jos. Fleming, McClarran & McKennan, have them at retail.

MARRIED:

GLOSSER—GORMLY—On the 3d inst., by Rev. M. Sparks, Mr. JACOB GLOSSER to Miss LILLIE A. GORMLY. No cards.

HAMS AND DRIED BEEF.

New Sugar Cured Hams;
New Sugar Cured Dried Beef;
New Sugar Cured Shoulders and Sides,

Just out of Smoke and for sale by

F. SELLERS & CO.

F. SELLERS & CO.,

MANUFACTURERS OF

EXTRA NO. 1 AND 2 LARD OIL,

COR. WAYNE AND PENN STREETS.

MARVIN'S CRACKERS

ARE BAKED IN A

Patent Oven,

THE ONLY ONE IN

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA.

It gives a LIGHTER, SWEETER and more uniformly baked Cracker, (consequently more wholesome) than can possibly be obtained in any other kind of an Oven. I use the best Flour, and WILL WARRANT my Goods SUPERIOR to any others. I describe GREATER than the former's MARKET. Capacity of this establishment OVER 100 BBLS. PER DAY.

IT IS THE

LARGEST BAKERY

EVER IN PITTSBURGH.

ALL ORDERS will receive prompt attention. Goods NEATLY PACKED in Barrels, Half Barrels and White Wood Boxes (the best shipping packages). MARVIN'S CRACKERS are the MIXED CRACKERS FOR FAMILY USE.

None Genuine unless MARVIN is on the side of every Package.

No. 91 Liberty Street.

Price Advanced—98 and Interest.

The Central Pacific R. R.,

The Best and Principal Portion of the

NATIONAL TRUNK LINE ACROSS THE CONTINENT.

Is being rapidly carried forward by an unprecedented working force; and it is reasonably certain that the *continuous Overland Railroad connection from New York to San Francisco will be made in* 1870.

The United States Government furnishes, upon a subordinate and contingent lien, half the means for constructing the line, and has granted to it the absolute grant of **14 800** acres of valuable public lands (every alternate section), which the Company have received from California sources, donations and conveyances, and **$15,000,000**. The available resources of this Company are therefore abundant for the purpose, amounting to $27,000,000 per mile, to the main line of 1,800 miles, including Loans secured by a First Mortgage upon the whole road, and to the same amount only as the U. S. Subsidy bonds.

The results already attained, although under comparatively limited facilities, afford substantial ground for believing the CENTRAL PACIFIC to be the

Most Favored, Productive and Valuable Railroad Enterprise in the Country.

In consequence of the large and rapidly increasing demand, the price of these Bonds has been advanced, and the Company are now offering for sale, a limited amount of their

First Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds.

Principal and Interest Payable in Gold Coin, in sums of **$1,000** each, at 98 per cent. of their par value, and accrued interest from January 1st, in currency.

These Bonds, it is believed, possess the elements of *safety, reliability and profit*, in a greater degree, than any other class of Corporate Securities now offered, and are therefore very desirable for steady investments of surplus capital.

Investors will bear in mind the following advantages:

I. They are the first mortgage on one of the most valuable and productive lines of railroad in the world.

II. The actual earnings from local business in 1867 will be more than four times the annual interest engagements.

III. The hard part of the work is now done, and the prospect of rapid completion are favorable.

IV. The company have liberal subsidies, which enable them to prosecute the work with great vigor.

V. The management has been exceedingly prudent and economical.

VI. There is already a large and growing settlement on the completed and graded line.

VII. The immigration will be immense value, **37,038** acres having been already sold.

VIII. Both principal and interest are explicitly made payable in gold coin.

IX. Both the aggregate amount of issue and their standing in Europe will insure for them continued sacredness and a high rank among standard securities.

At this time they yield nearly

Nine per Cent. upon the Investment.

Holders of Government Securities have an opportunity of exchanging them for Central Pacific Bonds, bearing an equal rate of interest, with the principal abundantly secured, and of realizing a profit of from ten to fifteen per cent. in addition.

Orders sent by mail, through responsible Banks or Express Companies will receive prompt attention. Bonds sent by return Express, free of charge. Parties desiring further information, Descriptive Pamphlets, Maps, &c., are furnished on application at the office of the Railroad Company.

No. 51 WILLIAM STREET,

AND OF

Fisk & Hatch,

Bankers and Dealers in Government Securities,

And Financial Agents of the C. P. R. R. Co.,

No. 5 Nassau Street, New York.

AND OF

Robinson Bros.,
S. McLean & Co., and
Jas. T. Brady & Sons,
PITTSBURGH.

THIS

HAVING BEEN APPOINTED ADMINISTRATRIX of the estate of ROBERT LOVE, late of Shaler township, deceased, all persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present them to me for payment, and all persons indebted to said estate will make payment immediately.

SUSANNA LOVE, Adm'x.

Shaler township, Allegheny county.

MACONNELL & SON,
Attorneys for Estate, 93 Diamond st.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.—Letters of Administration upon the estate of A. A. RANKIN, late of Elizabeth township, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned, all persons having claims against said estate will present them immediately for payment, and all persons indebted to said estate will make payment immediately to the undersigned.

DAVID RANKIN, Administrator.

CONVERSION OF 7-30'S.

We are now prepared to convert the Second and Third Series of

SEVEN-THIRTIES,

INTO THE

New 1867 5-20 Gold Coupon Bonds.

JAMES T. BRADY & CO.,

Dealers in Government Securities,

COR. FOURTH AND WOOD STS.

IRA B. M'VAY & CO.,

Bankers,

AND DEALERS IN

Government Securities,

Cor. Fourth and Smithfield Streets,

BUY AND SELL ALL ISSUES OF

U. S. BONDS,

COMPOUND INTEREST NOTES AND GOLD.

SEVEN-THIRTIES

Converted into 5-20 Bonds at Market Rates.

IRA B. M'VAY & CO.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

THURSDAY EVENING, February 6, 1868.

Most of the discount houses here report an easier condition in the money market. From the dullness of business that exists in the leading branches of trade there is not that volume of currency required, which causes but a slow demand for loans. Large amounts of capital must necessarily accumulate, and the deposits at most of the banks are largely on the increase. There are so many financial schemes brought forward by different members of Congress, and they are (many of them at least) so distant from any practical adoption, that the very discussion has a disturbing effect on the daily quotations of the public funds. The threatening position maintained by Congress towards the National Banks, that body having already authorized their local taxation, passed a bill through one branch to take from them the public deposits, and now propose to deprive them of circulation, are all facts and features that point to less buoyancy and still further distrust.

—The announcement, says the *Tribune*, that the Treasury was obliged in January to sell 10 40 bonds to meet current demands, had less effect upon the price of Government stocks than would have been shown if the feeling were not deep-rooted in the public mind that at an early day more legal tender notes will be issued under some pretext. This being accomplished, a further advance in gold and gold-bearing stocks is predicted by speculators, attended by **an advance in all local securities and commodities. It is evident to all ordinary** observers that the drain upon the Treasury is large enough to exhaust all its income, and make it impossible to reduce the aggregate of the debt in 1868. But this is not the worst phase of the matter. The people are getting more troublesome about taxation, and do not look so calmly on while the public treasure is being wasted. This state of things among the tax-payers does not at all cool the ardor of the swarm of leeches who deplete the public coffers. It only stimulates them to discover sources of supply, which will not create further alarm. As there is a large class of persons in Congress laboring under the delusion that more paper money will cure the evils of the present glut of irredeemable paper, that delusion will probably be availed of to secure the reissue of greenbacks to take the place of the legal tenders and compounds which have been withdrawn, regardless of the injury it is sure to inflict upon the community. It is to be hoped that this wrong will not be consummated if the Senate, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the veto of the President can prevent it.

—Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co., bankers, report the following quotations for governments as received from Jay Cooke & Co., their New York correspondents:—U. S. 6s 1861, 113½; U. S. 5-20s, '62, 111½; do '64, 108½; do '65, May and November, 109½; do '65, January and July, 107½; U. S. 10-40s, 104½; May, 1865, Compounds, 117¾; June 7-30s, 107¾; July 7-30s, 107¾; Gold, 141¾; 5-20s, '67, 107¾.

Messrs. James T. Brady & Co., bankers, report the following rates for governments today:—Gold, 141¾; U. S. 6s, 1881, 111¾; U. S. 5-20s, 1862, 111½; do 1864, 108½; do 1865, 109½; U. S. 10-40s, 104¾; U. S. 5-20s, January and July, 1865, 107¾; do 1867, 107¾; June 7-30s 107¾; July do, 107¾; May Compounds, 1865, 117¾; Union and Central Pacific Bonds advanced to par.

—Railways showed more firmness and prices advanced slightly. The noon quotations were as follows: Michigan Southern, 93¾; Cleveland and Pittsburgh, 95¾; Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago, 101½; Erie, 73½; Chicago and Northwestern, 59¾.

—We give below the figures showing the importation of the leading articles of groceries for the month of January at New York, and the consumption for the month of this year and last. No accurate account of the monthly stock of Tea is made up in New York, but the consumption of Tea cannot be exactly ascertained as to the other articles the consumption of Coffee has largely exceeded that of January, 1867. Of sugar in boxes and bags the quantity consumed has been greater and the stock less than last year. Of Molasses the consumption of foreign is less and of New Orleans about equal to that of January, 1867.

The following table shows the comparative quantities sold from first hands in January 1868 and 1867:

CONSUMPTION IN JANUARY.

	1868.	1867.
Coffee, Rio	14,273	8,567
Coffee, other	19,857	12,437
Sugar, boxes	30,850	11,980
Sugar, bags	19,441	10,757
Molasses, foreign, hhds	2,000	2,000
Molasses, New Orleans, hhds	3,567	3,800

The imports of the month were generally larger than for the same time in 1867. Ten of direct import and fourteen of bonded, however, were less. The table following shows the imports at New York for the month:

	January 1868.	January 1867.
Tea, direct import, lbs	388,247	1,349,396
Tea, indirect import, pkgs	7,852	4,401
Coffee, Rio, bags	65,516	34,733
Coffee, other, bags	24,127	6,215
Sugar, boxes	30,850	11,980
Sugar, hhds	8,466	2,193
Sugar, bags	19,441	10,757
Molasses, foreign, hhds	2,000	2,000
Molasses, New Orleans, hhds	3,567	3,800

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, }
THURSDAY EVENING, February 6, 1868.

Trade this week has been of a quiet character to-day, and prices unchanged, and to a great extent nominal, according to the amount of sales effected. We have no special remarks to make in regard to any particular branch of trade that would be of interest.

The receipts of leading articles of produce were very light. Our imports, as published this morning, show neither flour, apples, cheese or barley. There were seven car loads of potatoes, and two of hay; 40 sacks; oats 256 sacks, and butter 13 packages.

We quote as follows, which are the wholesale store prices, unless otherwise noted:

ASHES—We continue to quote common soda ash at 4½c; refined at 5c, and pearls nominally at 11@12c ₱ lb, as to amount of purchase.

APPLES—Choice apples are scarce and in demand at $5 ₱ bbl.

BACON, LARD, ETC—Prices are un changed and the market firm. We quote at 16c; plain shoulders at 10½c; S. C. shoulders at 12½c; rib sides at 12½c; clear sides at 13½c; lard in tierces 14c, and in kegs 14¾@15c; dried beef at 20c, and breakfast bacon at 18@19c.

BEES—PORK—There is a fair demand for mess pork and we quote full weights at $23 50@24 00 ₱ bbl.

LARD OIL—Market firm, and we note an advance in prices. We quote No. 1 extra at $1 15@1 17, and No. 2 at 95c ₱ gallon.

BEANS—We have reported sales of 25 bbls, small white at $3 25 ₱ bush.

BUTTER—Receipts have been quite liberal and prices range from 32@35c ₱ dozen, as to quality.

CHEESE—Sales of Factory at 17c, Limburger at 18c, and Goshen at 20c ₱ lb.

CRANBERRIES—We quote cultivated at $12 50@13 50 ₱ bbl, as to quality.

DRIED FRUITS—We quote peaches halved at 10@ 10c, and quarters at 7½c ₱ lb.

HOMINY—Flint hominy is selling at $7 25 ₱ bbl.

POTATOES—We quote peachblow potatoes at $1 05@1 10 ₱ bushel.

APPLE BUTTER—We quote at 80c@$1 00 ₱ gallon, as to quality.

HAY—Loose timothy hay is selling from country wagons at $17 00@20 00 ₱ ton. We quote baled hay at $20 00@21 00 ₱ ton.

SEED—Market dull. We quote timothy seed at $2 50@2 75; cloverseed $7 00@7 75, and flaxseed at $2 30 ₱ bushel.

MALT—We quote barley malt at $2 20 ₱ bushel for spring; no fall in the market. Rye malt is quoted at $1 85.

HOPS—We quote Wisconsin at 45@56c; Bavarian 60c, and New York 55@60c ₱ lb, as to quality.

GRAIN—Receipts light, with a limited demand for all kinds of grain. Barley is quiet at $1 90@2 00 ₱ bushel for No. 1 spring. We have reported sales of 2 cars rye in depot, from first hands, at $1 32, and 1 car do. at $1 35 ₱ bushel. Oats are arriving more freely, and selling from first hands at 63@64c, and from store at 66@70c ₱ bushel. There is very little inquiry for corn, and we quote from first hands at 95 @96c, and from store at $1 05@1 10 ₱ bushel. We have no reported transactions in wheat. The mill prices are $2 40@2 42 for red winter, and choice white wheat $2 50 ₱ bushel. The receipts are very light, and there is no demand except for milling purposes, and they are amply supplied at the above figures.

CORN MEAL—We quote corn meal from store at $1 05@1 10 ₱ bush.

RYE FLOUR—We quote at $8 00 ₱ bbl.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—We note sales of 2 tons in sacks at $4 25 ₱ hundred. The general quotation is $4 50 ₱ hundred.

FLOUR—The market is quiet to-day. Owing to the severe cold weather but few buyers were out. Dealers are firm in their prices. We quote choice winter $12 50; No. 1 spring $11 00@11 25, and medium grades $10 25@10 50 ₱ bbl.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, }
FRIDAY, February 7, 1868.

BUSINESS—The market yesterday exhibited a slight improvement over any day for the past week. There was more inquiry and the sales were larger; prices, however, have undergone but little change. We learn that Scrub-Grass is looming up. A two hundred barrel well has been struck at that place during the present week. Dispatches from the East furnish the following quotations: Philad